

Pope congratulates Bush

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul, keen for the Vatican to have a say in the search for Middle East peace, on Friday congratulated the United States on its success in bringing Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table. U.S. President George Bush, on a brief visit to the Vatican at the end of a two-day NATO summit, briefed the Pope on the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid under U.S. and Soviet sponsorship on Oct. 30. The 71-year-old Polish Pope complimented U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on "your very important work to bring peace" to the Middle East. "We're working on it," replied Mr. Baker, architect of the Madrid talks which brought Israel and all its Arab neighbours face to face for the first time. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope and Mr. Bush concentrated on the Middle East and Yugoslavia during private talks lasting over an hour in the pontiff's study. "President Bush outlined to the holy father the steps taken and the perspectives opened (by the Madrid conference) for a stable, secure and just peace in the Middle East," he said.

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German firm suspected of illegal arms sales to Iran, Iraq

RAVENSBURG, Germany (R) — German prosecutors said Friday they were investigating a firm suspected of illegally supplying arms-making equipment to Iran and Iraq. A spokesman for the public prosecutor in the Bavarian town of Ravensburg said the firm was suspected of delivering machinery to both countries in 1989 that could be used to produce gun barrels. The deliveries went via Switzerland in contravention of German export laws, the prosecutor said. The firm's offices and those of an outside designer in Heilbronn were searched on Tuesday. Documents seized in the searches were being examined, the spokesman said. Neither firm was identified. One or two Swiss firms were also suspected of involvement and Swiss authorities were investigating, he said.

Israeli envoy to France to resign

PARIS (R) — Israel's ambassador to France, Ovadia Sofer, said Friday he was leaving his post to seek a place on the ruling right-wing Likud party's list in next year's parliamentary elections. "I have received strong encouragement from both Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Shamir and Foreign Minister (David) Levy," Mr. Sofer told the French Jewish radio station Radio Communauté-Judiques PM. Mr. Sofer, who makes no secret of his hawkish political views, has been ambassador to France since 1983. His long tenure has been criticised in the Israeli press which charges that his status as a Shamir protégé made him "untouchable."

Turkish police hold leftist squad

ANKARA (R) — Police have arrested six alleged members of a left-wing squad trained by guerrillas in Lebanon to kill senior Turkish officials, a senior security official said Friday. Anti-terrorist police teams arrested the six men during a series of operations launched on Oct. 12. They seized two automatic rifles, two pistols, ammunition and explosives, the official said. The group was trained in assassination techniques for eight months in a guerrilla camp in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, he added.

IAEA: Iraq made nuclear tests but no bomb

VIENNA (R) — Iraq successfully tested key parts of a nuclear bomb just months before its invasion of Kuwait but could not have produced a complete weapon, U.N. nuclear experts said Friday. A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed a report by British television on Thursday which said Iraq made 20 successful tests on key components of a bomb in the first five months of 1990. But he denied assertions by the Channel Four news programme that Iraq just had to put the system together to explode nuclear bomb. "They did make about 20 tests, but these are all small aspects, important, but on a very small scale, and they don't have the material on a scale large enough for a bomb," Hans Mayer said. The Channel Four programme quoted U.S. expert Stephen Bryen as saying he believed Baghdad still had the means to make a bomb despite U.N. efforts to destroy its nuclear potential following the Gulf war.

U.N. to give \$15m in aid to Iraq

ROME (AP) — A U.N. agency said Thursday it will send Iraq \$15 million in food aid. The World Food Programme said the aid consisted of 27,200 metric tonnes of cereals, 3,400 metric tonnes of vegetable oil, and 1,100 metric tonnes of corn soya blend, and 915 metric tonnes of dried milk. The World Food Programme is a division of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Last month, FAO said many Iraqis were faced with malnutrition. The U.N. Security Council is trying to persuade Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion of oil.

Obstacles face attempts to reshuffle government

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Attempts by Prime Minister Taher Masi to reshuffle his government and avert a political crisis before the reconvening of Parliament in December appeared to run into hurdles Friday as the various proposals failed to provide the government with a stronger base in the Lower House.

According to government officials, Mr. Masi is not expected to reshuffle his government unless he can ensure a "solid 45 to 47 votes in any upcoming vote of confidence."

The bargaining with the different parliamentary blocs has so far been unable to secure such a plurality and more realistic expectations continue to calculate a maximum of 43 votes in favour of the government.

So far a number of meetings between the prime minister and the 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood Bloc have only produced

promises of adopting "passive" opposition to the government in return for the premier's National parliamentary bloc's support for the reelection of Abdul Latif Arabiyat as speaker of the Lower House.

The 18-member Constitution Bloc, on the other hand, has asked for six ministerial seats in addition to the government's support for their speaker candidate Thaqan Hindawi, who is leader of the bloc. A source within the bloc, however, said his bloc was willing to bargain over the number of ministerial seats allotted the group if they were promised support for Mr. Hindawi's nomination.

To add to an already complex situation, the Democratic Bloc, which is the nucleus parliamentary representative of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), as experienced splits in its positions towards Mr. Masi's government, as a result of administrative deci-

sions taken by the cabinet recently and over Jordan's participation in the Madrid peace conference and ensuing Arab-Israeli negotiations. In an apparent shift of position towards the government a Democratic Bloc source, who recently said that his bloc would not continue its support of Mr. Masi's government Friday said his group would judge Mr. Masi's government on the merits of its statement.

If Mr. Masi reshuffles his government to include the Constitution Bloc, officials and parliamentarians expect that at least 41 deputies will support Mr. Masi's government, including 17 members of the Constitution Bloc, 15 members of Mr. Masi's National Bloc, 5 independent Islamists and 4 Democratic Bloc members.

But although the observers do not dismiss the possibility of two or three extra votes in the government's favour, they also do not

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Maxwell to be buried in Jerusalem Sunday

TEL AVIV (AP) — The body of British publisher Robert Maxwell was flown here Friday for burial, but controversy continued to swirl around both his life and death.

In Spain, his widow cast doubt on an autopsy report saying Mr. Maxwell died of heart failure. In Australia, a self-described former Israeli intelligence agent levelled new charges that the publisher was involved in weapons sales to Iran.

Mr. Maxwell's corpse arrived on a private jet from the Canary Islands. The 68-year-old publisher's body was found in the Atlantic Ocean off the Spanish island Tuesday after he disappeared from his yacht.

His widow, Elisabeth Maxwell, left the plane with her head down, wearing a dark blue hat and sun glasses. Reporters were kept away.

She was accompanied by her daughter, Ghislaine, and her

eldest son, Philip. The coffin, covered in a Jewish prayer shawl, was taken from the airport members of a Jewish burial society wearing skullcaps.

Mr. Maxwell, a Czechoslovak-born Jew, will be buried Sunday on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives. Jewish tradition holds that those buried on the sacred mount will be resurrected first when the Messiah comes.

Mr. Maxwell ran a troubled two billion media empire that included New York's Daily News, London's Daily Mirror and other British tabloids.

Spanish officials said Mr. Maxwell died a natural death, apparently of heart failure.

But before leaving the Canary Islands, Mrs. Maxwell suggested the autopsy performed on the publisher could not be regarded as the final word on his cause of death.

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Hawatmeh arrives, says DFLP not against conference

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh arrived in Amman Friday as part of a tour in the countries of the region which will also take him to Morocco.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Hawatmeh said his visit to Jordan was aimed at coordinating pan-Arab positions in order to restore Palestinian and Arab rights.

Mr. Hawatmeh, who arrived here from Damascus, said: "The Middle East region is on the threshold of a new era during

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Israeli driver attacked

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians stabbed and strangled an Israeli taxi driver Friday then threw him from his cab near the West Bank town of Ramallah, the army command said.

The driver, identified only as a 40-year-old resident of Jerusalem, was treated for slight injuries to his face and hands at Hadassah Hospital in 'Ain Karen, an army spokesman said.

Police and security forces chased after the hijacked cab and later found it abandoned, Israel Radio said.

The wounded man was found by Red Cross workers who happened to be passing, then handed over to soldiers at a junction outside Jerusalem, an army statement said.

Ten driver said two Arab passengers stabbed him in his face and hands with a small knife, tried to strangle him with a wire, then threw him from his cab, the spokesman added.

Also Friday, the Rehovot magistrates court extended by 15 days the detention of an Israeli suspected of selling guns to Arabs in the area of the West Bank city of Hebron, Israel Radio said.

The daily Haaretz said the man and an accomplice stole 10 rifles from a military base and sold them to Arabs.

Settlement named city

Maaleh Adumim, the largest Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, was officially designated a city a week before the Madrid peace talks, the newly-named mayor said Friday.

Mayor Amos Tertman denied reports in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth that Dani Yatom, head of the army's central command, (Continued on page 5)

Israel and allies shell villages in S. Lebanon

TYPRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli and its militia allies bombed villages in South Lebanon Friday, wounding at least three civilians.

Security sources said dozens of shells from Israeli and South Lebanon Army (SLA) artillery batteries hit villages just west of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south.

Israeli rockets destroyed a school for orphans and an office for Palestinians in two South Lebanon Palestinian refugee camps on Thursday, killing two civilians.

Israeli gunners fired more than 100 shells into a string of villages near the 15-km deep buffer zone Thursday and SLA militiamen blew up a suspected guerrilla base overnight.

The shelling began on Oct. 20 when Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) stepped up attacks on Israel in a bid to sabotage the opening of Middle East peace talks in Madrid.

Israel retaliated with six air strikes and by firing more than 1,250 shells out of the zone. It warned residents to curb guerrilla activity or risk greater violence.

Hizbollah guerrillas have killed six Israeli soldiers in the security zone in the last two and a half weeks.

A group calling itself

Hezbollah-Palestine released a picture Friday of an Israeli soldier it claims to hold.

The black-and-white passport photo of the soldier identified as Yaqoub Simeriskai was accompanied by a statement from Hezbollah-Palestine.

The statement said the picture was released on a promise made in October, when the previously unheard of group provided the number of the soldier's military card.

A photocopy of what the group claims to be the soldier's identity and military papers were also attached to the statement delivered to Western news agencies in Beirut.

The Israeli army had nothing to add to a statement in October when it said a thorough investigation found "no soldier is missing answering to the published name."

At the time, military sources said the name and the serial number belonged to two different people and both were accounted for.

The identification cards handed out Friday were in Hebrew. The Arabic statement gave the soldier's military serial number as 4693737 and the identity card number as 28915395 that said Simeriskai was born Oct. 2, 1971.

Syria firm on progress before group talks with Israel, PLO says

By Jane Arraf
Renter

AMMAN — Syria and the Palestinians still want concessions from Israel before they will let Middle East peace talks go to the third stage, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Friday.

"The Syrians want substantial progress to be achieved in the bilateral talks on withdrawal, freezing of settlements and Palestinian self-determination" before they will attend multilateral regional talks, said Yasser Abed-Rabbo, who attended talks between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Abed-Rabbo, a PLO Executive Committee member, told Reuters on return from the Syrian port of Latakia the Palestinians also insisted on substantial progress during the bilateral talks with Israel, most likely to begin in two weeks near Washington.

"We cannot welcome the normalisation of ties before having some progress on our problems," he said.

In the second stage, the main Arab delegations face Israel separately on the central questions — peace and borders. Multilateral talks are for discussion of broader secondary issues such as arms control and water rights.

Syria wants Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights it seized in 1967 and is worried that attending talks on regional issues would imply normalisation of ties and weaken its bargaining position.

Mr. Arafat returned to Jordan late Thursday from Syria before flying to Yemen.

Mr. Abed-Rabbo said Mr. Arafat would go on to Egypt, which has warmed relations with the PLO after the Gulf war, either on Friday or next week after a meeting in Cairo of the members of the Arab coalition which fought against Iraq in the Gulf war.

He said a PLO delegation would also travel to Beirut soon to discuss the historic Arab-Israeli talks which opened in Madrid last week.

The PLO has been barred from taking a direct role in the peace process but effectively directs Palestinian participation.

The Palestinians are still pressing for an Arab summit to coordinate positions on the peace conference but there are no indications such a meeting is imminent.

One reason for the delay is Syria's fear that the meeting would fail because of differences over approaches to the multilateral talks, a PLO source said.

Jordan, which is attending the peace conference in a joint delegation with the Palestinians, has made it clear it will attend the multilateral talks to try to resolve crucial issues such as water.

But it says it will not sign any final agreement with Israel without progress on the Palestinian problem.

Egypt expects the bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab parties to resume in Washington within two weeks, Foreign Minister Amr Mossa said Friday.

"Egypt is consulting with the concerned parties to start the bilateral talks, which are expected to be held in Washington within two weeks," he told reporters.

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Palestinians expect tough Israeli stand, then ceding of territory

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Leaders in the Palestinian peace delegation said in interviews published Friday that they expected Israel to take a hardline stance in negotiations but to eventually cede control over land to Palestinians.

The daily Maariv reported, meanwhile, that the Palestinians have demanded a list of 25 confidence building measures from Israel to move forward the peace process. The paper said Israeli sources denied the list was accurate.

Among the demands was freeing hundreds of prisoners jailed without trial, reopening closed universities, allowing display of the Palestinian flag and applying the Geneva conventions on treatment of civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, who headed the Palestinian delegation in Madrid, told the Israeli daily Davar that his view that Israel would take a tough stance in peace talks was based on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's speech at the conference.

"I think the (Israeli) delegation will stick to the line Shamir expressed in his speech," he said. Mr. Shamir, in his address, repeatedly referred to Jews' "right" to the "land of Israel," which Israeli right-wingers use to mean present-day Israel, plus the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict was "not territorial."

Faisal Husseini, who headed the advisers to the delegation, also told Davar that the biggest success of the Madrid meeting was placing the Palestinians' plight before the world.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) shared the delegates' view that "our chances of succeeding are better in the political way than in the military one."

Asked if the Palestinians would accept autonomy for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip without the land itself, Mr. Husseini replied: "Israel does not want to give us control over land and water sources in the framework of the interim agreement, but eventual-

ly they will give it to us."

Davar did not say where the interviews with Mr. Abdul Shafi and Mr. Husseini were conducted. They and the other members of the Palestinian delegation were expected to return from Jordan Sunday.

On Friday the Palestinian delegates were attacked by several radical mosque preachers who want to turn Israel and the occupied territories into an Islamic state.

Delegates Hanan Ashrawi, Dr. Nabil Qassis and Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem were attacked because they are Christians, and Dr. Abdul Shafi, a Muslim, was called an infidel.

At the Al Rawda Mosque in the West Bank city of Nablus, Sheikh Ahmad Haj Ali called the delegates "a group of atheists and seculars who have no linkage with Haram Al Sharif."

Sheikh Haj Ali, 52, from a refugee camp in Nablus, was detained twice during the nearly four-year Palestinian uprising for belonging to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

As an attempt to derail U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks and Beirut's drive to encourage Westerners to return after 15 years of civil war.

"We believe it was meant to represent... an obstacle for the peace conference and reconciliation in Lebanon," Interior Minister Sami Al Khatib said after visiting the university.

There was no immediate responsibility claim. Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim factions had threatened attacks on American targets in protest against the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid.

However, the attack was denounced by Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the mentor of Shiite factions operating in Lebanon.

"This explosion aims at shattering the prevailing state of security," Sheikh Fadlallah said in his Friday prayers sermon. "The fingers of intelligence ser-

vices, be they local or Israeli, are behind this explosion."

Prime Minister Omar Karami also blamed the Jewish state, saying "Only Israel benefits from such a criminal attack."


The blast tore down more than one half of the two-storey college hall administration building and clock tower on its top facing the main gate to the sprawling campus overlooking the mediterranean.

The library building across a lane from college hall also was devastated by the 3:40 a.m. (0140 GMT) thunderous blast that jolted thousands of Beirut residents in bed. Other buildings inside and outside the campus also sustained damage.

Interior Minister Khatib pledged that security agencies "would save no effort to chop off the hands of the culprits."

"We denounce this criminal

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U.S. auditors to check how Israel spent \$400m

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. auditors are going to Israel to see how its government spent \$400 million in loans guaranteed by the United States to build housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants, officials said Thursday.

The team from the General Accounting Office (GAO), the agency which monitors how the government spends money appropriated by Congress, will also examine Israel's ability to repay its foreign debt, said a GAO official.

The auditors are being sent at the request of Sen. Robert Byrd, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Another official said the auditors will probably leave next week.

Mr. Byrd's office had no immediate comment.

Israel's request for guarantees to underwrite its borrowing from financial institutions has stirred controversy because of concern that the money would be used to build housing for Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The United States opposes Jewish settlement in the Palestinian lands, viewing them as obstacles to peace.

Israel denies using the guarantees for housing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli embassy spokeswoman Ruth Yaron said any GAO team going to Israel would receive "full cooperation."

Israel has received an unprecedented wave of Soviet immigrants — nearly 400,000 over the past two years — and as many as one million may come in the next few years, Israeli experts say.

The Israeli government has asked for an additional \$10 billion in U.S. guarantees for housing.

But Congress, under unusual pressure from the administration, agreed to hold delay considering the Israeli request until the end of January.

Last month's decision gave the powerful pro-Israel lobby a resounding victory. Several proposals are under consideration to reduce amounts available to Israel if U.S.-guaranteed money is found to have been used in the occupied territories.

The administration sought the delay to avoid antagonizing the Arabs as peace talks were getting under way.

The Arabs were pleased with the delay, viewing it as a departure from the traditional U.S. bias towards Israel and as a commitment to a more evenhanded policy. That, in turn, enhanced U.S. credibility as a mediator in the talks which got under way last week in Madrid.

The next phase of the talks is planned for later this month.

The guarantees would only cost the U.S. taxpayer money if Israel defaults on the loans. But several recent reports, including a classified one from the U.S. government's Export-Import Bank, have questioned Israel's ability to pay.

Israeli officials, resigned but angered at the administration's position on the guarantee request, said the report was incorrect and failed to take into account Israel's "clean" record of loan repayment.

Several Israeli officials accused U.S. officials of leaking the report to the media to prevent congressional approval of the \$10 billion guarantees.

U.S. not planning quick sale of jets to Saudis — officials

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration is not planning any quick sales of warplanes to the Middle East despite a report that Saudi Arabia has requested 72 F-15 fighters from McDonnell Douglas Corp., administration officials said.

Such a sale, which could be worth more than \$4 billion to McDonnell Douglas, would have to be formally proposed by the White House and approved by Congress before it could become official.

"We don't anticipate any sales of additional aircraft, probably for the next several months, given the current climate," said one of the officials, who asked not to be identified.

The officials said any additional sales of U.S. military equipment to the Middle East, including the Arab states in the Gulf, were unlikely while the budding Middle East peace process was in its current phase.

The peace process, which brought Israeli and Arab representatives together in Madrid for the first time last week, could go on for years and the administration officials did not make clear what they meant by the "current phase."

But any proposal for such a sale of sophisticated jets to an Arab state at the current time would be sure to raise strong objections from congressional supporters of Israel.

The administration officials declined to say whether President George Bush planned to offer additional arms to the Saudis and other friendly Arab states next year.

McDonnell Aircraft Company, the military component of the McDonnell Douglas Corp., announced the Saudi request at the Dubai airshow on Tuesday.

"If approved by the U.S. this sale will keep the F-15 manufacturing line going through the mid-1990s, allowing the company to pursue additional improvements," Robert Trice, vice president of business development of McDonnell Aircraft Co. told a news conference in Dubai.

In Washington, the Pentagon and State Department declined to say whether U.S. and Saudi officials had discussed such an aircraft deal, which would raise the touchy issue of whether the administration should continue selling billions of dollars in sophisticated arms in the volatile region.

"As a matter of policy, we do not comment on confidential exchanges between governments, either diplomatically or on a military-to-military basis," said a brief statement issued by the State Department.

"Nor do we announce discussions that could lead to arms transfers," the statement added.

Saudi Arabia already has 84 F-15 fighters. During the Gulf war, U.S. and Saudi F-15s helped the allies win air superiority over Iraq.

Officials of British Aerospace Plc said in Dubai on Tuesday they did not feel the proposed deal would affect them as the planes they hope to sell the Saudis do a different job from the F-15.

British Aerospace wants to sell 48 Tornado ground attack aircraft and 60 Hawk fighter planes to Saudi Arabia, as part of a \$17 billion second phase of a major arms deal.

Israel, guerrillas stir cycle of violence in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Israel and pro-Iranian guerrillas are dragging South Lebanon through a vicious cycle of attack and counter-attack far removed from Middle East peace talks.

Israel says it must hit back when attacked while Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hezbollah organization says the only way to end Israeli raids is to wipe out the Jewish state.

The Middle East peace talks in Madrid last week brought more Arab-Israeli bloodshed to South Lebanon.

Hezbollah stepped up attacks in an attempt to sabotage the negotiations. Israel increased raids and shelling — as Hezbollah hoped it would fuel a bigger anti-Israeli war.

Israeli helicopters damaged a school for orphans and an office of Palestinian groups in two South Lebanon refugee camps on Thursday, killing two civilians and wounding eight.

Israeli gunners pounded villages near their South Lebanon "security zone" and Israeli-backed militiamen blew up a suspected guerrilla base overnight.

Hezbollah fired rockets into the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp on the edge of Sidon, south of Beirut, hitting the Badr Islamic School for orphans and wounding five children.

Witnesses said the rockets missed what was apparently their real target — a post of the Palestinian Force 17 security unit next door. The Israeli army said the aircraft had hit a command post of Fateh.

Rockets fired by four Israeli Cobra helicopters earlier wrecked an office of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the port of Tyre. Two civilians were killed and three wounded.

Israel and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) have fired 1,200 shells in two weeks into the south after Hezbollah guerrillas killed six Israeli soldiers.

Hezbollah chief Sheikh Abbas Musawi said: "As long as we are afraid of Israel and there is no deterrent to it through resistance operations, it will continue its aggression."

U.S. agencies differ over war costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — American taxpayers may have to pay \$7.1 billion of the \$61.1 billion it estimates will be the total cost of fighting the Gulf war, the Defense Department says.

Although Congress has set aside \$15 billion to pay for the war, the figures appeared to be the Pentagon's highest estimate yet of the cost to the U.S. treasury for the effort to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

Earlier this year, the congressional General Accounting Office (GAO) said it did not believe U.S. taxpayers should have to bear any of the costs, since they should be covered by the contributions of the nations that benefited from the war effort.

The \$7.1 billion expense cited by the Pentagon includes \$3.1 billion in supplemental appropriations and reprogramming of funds from the 1990 fiscal year; \$1.2 billion in equipment that will not be replaced; and \$2.8 billion in costs and long-term personnel benefits that will not be funded by the allied contributions.

The Pentagon issued its statement on the cost to taxpayers Thursday after Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams disputed a GAO report this week that the United States will collect \$800 million more than it spent in the Gulf war if the allies pay what they have pledged.

Mr. Williams said the GAO was "incorrect" in its analysis, but a spokesman for the GAO, Cleve Corlett, said the agency, Congress's investigative arm, stands by its report. The GAO has repeatedly taken issue with the Pentagon's estimates of its war costs, contending they are excessive.

Mr. Williams said the Pentagon estimates its "cash cost" in the war effort at \$51 billion, and that the allies have pledged \$48.2 billion.

That leaves a \$2.8 billion shortfall... that we will have to get in a supplemental appropriation from Congress," Mr. Williams said.

The spokesman said the funds would have to come from the \$1 billion fund appropriated by Congress as the Gulf regional defense fund.

In its report the GAO said the allies' contribution — if fulfilled — will amount to \$48.3 billion "or almost \$800 million more than the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) funding requirement estimate."

The \$800 million, the report said, "could be used to reimburse the treasury for funding provided in fiscal year 1990 or for other operation-related expenses at the rate of already incurred by the United States."

"We believe the balance of the war costs would be even greater because funding requirements do not appear to be as high as OMB's estimate. The \$15 billion of U.S. funds that Congress appropriated to the Gulf regional defense fund will not be needed," the GAO added.

In its statement, the Pentagon said estimates put the overall cost at \$61.1 billion and the cost to taxpayers would be an estimated \$7.1 billion.

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Afghan rebel team says Moscow holds key to peace

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan guerrilla delegation came to visit the Soviet Union said Friday that the key to peace in Afghanistan lay with Moscow.

"I do believe that after the defeat of the Soviets in Afghanistan and the defeat of communism in Soviet Russia and the changes in the world, our negotiations with the Soviets will be constructive, important and effective," guerrilla leader Burhanuddin Rabbani said.

But unless the Soviet Union came up with new proposals to end 13 years of war in Afghanistan, the talks would "come to nothing," he told a news conference before leaving for Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union.

He declined to say what proposals the 11-man delegation would take to Moscow or whether they would have a list of Soviet prisoners still held by the Mujahideen guerrillas more than two years after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan.

The prisoners are one of the main concerns of the Soviet government, which would like them treated as a humanitarian issue rather than as pawns in the political negotiations. Moscow believes 60 to 80 prisoners may still be alive.

In September the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to halt weapons supplies to the Mujahideen by Jan. 1. The United States says it has already stopped deliveries.

The guerrilla delegation, reportedly delayed by wrangling among the divided Mujahideen leadership over who should go and what proposals to take, will arrive in Moscow on Sunday after a two-day pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

They are due to have talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Yeltsin and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. No time limit has been set for the talks.

Three hardline guerrilla groups, including the powerful Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, refused to join the delegation, despite heavy pressure from Pakistan.

Mr. Rabbani said he believed an absolute majority of Afghans backed talks with the Soviet Union, which the guerrilla groups argue still controls events in Kabul.

The United Nations has proposed hosting an intra-Afghan dialogue of all sides in the war over forming an interim administration that could end hostilities and hold elections.

Afghan President Najibullah has told the United Nations he is ready to step down if that process is acceptable.

With the exception of a "handful of criminals," Mr. Rabbani said there were many people in Kabul, including people in government, who would be acceptable to the Mujahideen.

Mr. Rabbani said he believed an absolute majority of Afghans backed talks with the Soviet Union, which the guerrilla groups argue still controls events in Kabul.

Iraqi blockade in north worries relief workers

SULAIMANIYEH (R) — The northern Iraqi city of Sulaimaniyeh, one of the centres of Kurdish resistance to the Baghdad government, is suffocating from the effects of a government blockade now in its third week.

Baghdad, apparently intent on persuading the Kurds to sign an agreement on autonomy, has cut off supplies of food and fuel and has ordered civil servants either to go to work in Baghdad or forfeit their salaries.

As a result petrol is in short supply, if not impossible to find, food prices have risen by up to 95 per cent and government employees are working without pay.

Thousands of Kurdish refugees from fighting in October cannot move, either to home or to permanent shelter in camps, because they have no fuel for their vehicles.

A Kurdish delegation left for Baghdad Wednesday to discuss the blockade and Kurds in Sulaimaniyeh, a city of about one million, hope their leaders can negotiate a solution.

The Baghdad government has no control over large areas of Kurdistan but until the second half of October it continued to supply rebel-held areas with subsidised fuel and food rations.

It also paid teachers, doctors, engineers, traffic police and municipal officials throughout northern Iraq.

Very few have complied with the order to move south.

Teachers at the Rangin secondary school for girls in Sulaimaniyeh, for example, received notice on Oct. 23.

"We met and decided to continue working here without wages as long as we can," said one of the teachers. "Each teacher's ability to resist depends on her individual situation."

The community has rallied to support the schools. Parents are donating money and food to help the teachers and unemployed professionals are teaching without pay.

Long lines have formed at petrol stations, which now open for only a few hours a day, at all.

Taxi driver Najmeddin Mahmoud has queued for three days.

"One day there will be petrol and I will be near the front," he said. "I have no choice, I have a wife and seven children."

The price rises, which range from 75 to 95 per cent over 10 days, affect flour, rice, sugar, tea and cheese.

Many Kurds are looking elsewhere to feed their families.

One man drove from Sulaimaniyeh to government-controlled Kirkuk, outside the blockade area, to buy food.

"I bought rice, oil and cheese, but the Iraqi soldiers took it at the checkpoint and siphoned most of the petrol from my car," he said. "They dumped the fuel on the road."

The blockade is also creating problems for U.N. relief efforts in outlying areas.

"We've been out of diesel fuel for two days," says Egbert Menemcioglu, a senior U.N. official based in Sulaimaniyeh.

"We're trying to get people down from the mountains, but we have no way to transport them."

At least 10,000 Kurds from the town of Kalar are camped along the main road about 60 kilometres south of Sulaimaniyeh and are unable to move.

"Right now (they) are undecided whether to continue to stay in Kalar (refugee camp) or return to Kalar," said Mr. Menemcioglu. "Unless they get fuel, they won't be going anywhere."

The United Nations is even more disturbed by the prospect of prolonged food shortages in Kurdistan.

About 1.2 million Kurds depended on Baghdad for rations in Sulaimaniyeh governorate alone. Another 200,000 Kurdish refugees in the area rely on the United Nations for food.

Tens of thousands of them are in Sulaimaniyeh city but in remote and inaccessible mountain villages.

The government completed its monthly food distribution around Sulaimaniyeh in late October and relief workers worry Baghdad's stocks are depleted and no more food will come north.

Mr. Menemcioglu said that feeding more than 1.4 million people without reliable fuel supplies, just as winter sets in, would be impossible.

"If this food embargo continues, even for a matter of weeks, we will be in real crisis," he said. "The question is how quickly the international community can mobilise to handle food distribution in northern Iraq."

Allied military sources based in Turkey say they have an urgent request from the United Nations to supply food for 500,000 people for 15 days in Sulaimaniyeh governorate.

Mr. Menemcioglu said he thought Turkey and Iraq, which border northern Iraq, would probably provide food and fuel to Kurdistan if the blockade continues much longer.

Some two million refugees ended up in the mountains of Turkey and Iran last April when a Kurdish rebellion against the government collapsed. Many returned home only recently.

Anbari says he knows nothing about Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's U.N. ambassador said Thursday he knew nothing about rumours that Baghdad was willing to sell some oil under a Security Council resolution permitting it to dispose of up to \$1.6 billion worth over a six-month period.

"As far as I know, nothing at all," Ambassador Abdul Amir al-Anbari told Reuters.

He said he had not been in touch with Baghdad for 48 hours, "and this is another indication that there is no foundation for the rumour, because otherwise they would have let me know."

Mr. Anbari joked: "You can help raise the prices by saying that the Iraqis are not selling oil."

Asked whether Iraq would then sell oil, if prices fell, he laughed: "We are caught between the sea and the devil."

But he confirmed he had heard nothing indicating Baghdad planned to sell oil.

"The last official word is that Iraq is not interested in implementing the resolution," he added, referring to a Security Council decision last August permitting the sale of up to \$1.6 billion worth of Iraqi oil over a six-month period to enable Baghdad to buy food and other humanitarian supplies.

Iraq, which remains under U.N. sanctions for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, objects to the resolution because all the proceeds would have to be paid into a U.N. escrow account.

About \$933 million would be available to buy food and other civilian necessities and the rest would earmarked for Gulf war reparations and to meet other obligations stemming from the invasion of Kuwait.

The sale of the oil would be strictly monitored by the United Nations. So would the purchase of humanitarian goods and its distribution in Iraq.

Rumours that Iraq might now be prepared to sell some oil under conditions set by the Security Council swirled in the oil market Thursday.

The spokesman for the U.N. mission of a permanent Security Council member said he had received a number of inquiries about the rumours.

Newly released scroll suggests execution of 'Messiah'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Newly released text from the Dead Sea scrolls mention the execution of a Messiah-like leader, suggesting that some ancient Jews shared the Christian concept of the slaying of a Messiah, scholars said Thursday.

One fragment contains five lines of text that describes a "leader of the community" being "put to death" and mentions "piercings" or "wounds," said Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University, Long Beach.

The text also uses Messiah-related terms such as "the staff," "the branch of David" and "the root of Jesse," said Mr. Eisenman, who helped translate the scroll fragments.

Its language is close to that in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, which says "For our sins he was wounded." Many Christians use Isaiah's prophecies to aid their understanding of Jesus.

Mr. Eisenman said he does not know if the leader mentioned in the text was Jesus. But he said the text has "far-reaching significance" because it shows the scrolls' writers and early Christians shared similar Messianic ideas.

He said the text supports his controversial theory that the most recent scrolls were written by Jews who helped form early Christianity. Many other scholars believe the scrolls were written by an Ascetic Jewish sect called Essenes.

"We've known for a long time there are connections between ideas contained in the scrolls and Christianity. However, this particular idea — the idea of a dying Messiah — is new and explosive," said Michael Wise, a University of Chicago professor of Aramaic, the language of Jesus.

Mr. Wise, who helped translate the fragments, said it was always thought that Jews at the time of Jesus expected a Messiah who would restore Israel to dominance politically. Yet the newly released text shows that the Jewish scroll writers had the idea of a Messiah who would suffer and die.

"That shows this was not an idea unique to Christianity," Mr. Wise said.

"Anything which potentially impugns the uniqueness of the Christian message can be seen by some people as invalidating it or weakening it," said Mr. Wise.

The scrolls contain the oldest known copies of the Old Testament and numerous other writings. Scholars believe they were written by a Jewish sect some time between 200 B.C. and A.D. 50.

The 800 scrolls, found in fragments, were found in caves near the Dead Sea in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Stored in Jerusalem, the scrolls contain priceless information about the period that spawned Christianity and modern Judaism.

A group of scholars, working under Jordanian and later Israeli auspices, controlled access to many of the scrolls for 40 years, drawing criticism that they were sluggish in publishing translations.

The Huntington Library in San Marino broke the monopoly in September by giving qualified scholars free access to its 3,000 photographs of scroll fragments.

Mr. Eisenman was the first granted access.

If the translation of the fragments is correct, the text "is very significant," said James Tabor, a University of North Carolina associate professor of Christian origins and ancient Judaism.

"It tightens the connection tremendously between the early Christians and the people who wrote the scrolls," said Mr. Tabor.

"It's an interesting text. I doubt if one would call it explosive or revolutionary," said Eugene Ulrich, a University of Notre Dame theology professor. As chief editor of the scrolls, Mr. Ulrich was among the scholars who had early access to the documents.

Many concepts once believed to be uniquely Christian later were found to have been mentioned by Jews who wrote the scrolls, Mr. Ulrich said.

Emile Puech, another of the scrolls' editors, revealed the same text in Madrid last March during a closed-door meeting of official scroll scholars, Mr. Ulrich said, adding it will be published soon.

Mr. Eisenman and Mr. Tabor said scroll editors could have published the text years ago and now want to play down its significance because it could damage traditional religious views. Mr. Ulrich denied the text was withheld.

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JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 ... Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
18:30 ... Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Documentary
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Totally Hidden VI
21:00 ... Encounter
21:30 ... Life on the Land
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Feature film: "The Lookalike"

PRAYER TIMES
06:35 ... Fajr
07:54 ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19 ... Dhuhr
14:19 ... Asr
16:05 ... Maghrib
18:04 ... Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatkin, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 697440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiut International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 644952
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be light and variable, changing at times to easterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ... 12/25
Aqaba ... 16/30
Dumana ... 10/26
Jordan Valley ... 19/29

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Fakhri Babbal 625778
Dr. Youssef Al Fakhri 657909
Dr. Basma Chedoui 640034
Fina pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Aqsa pharmacy 637035
Natrout pharmacy 629672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Soudani pharmacy 637660

BEIRUT:
Dr. Imad Abu Elda ... (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy ... (273825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khamsa Al Ja'bari ... (—)

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 657777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843482
Traffic Police 863390
Public Security Department 630321
Price Complaints 603800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 871467
Complaints
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664711/4
Soudani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 777012
Al-Masrah Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664146
Indira, Al-Masrah 777012
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/6
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 623101
ZARQA:
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Doha (RJ)
09:30 Agaña (RJ)
09:40 Beirut (RJ)
09:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:10 Colombo (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
10:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
10:25 Tripoli (RJ)
10:30 Helsinki, Agaña (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaña (RJ)
07:30 Tripoli (RJ)
08:00 Agaña, Helsinki (RJ)
08:05 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
11:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
20:00 Jordan (RJ)
20:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
11:15 Sam (O)
12:00 Paris (O)

MARKET PRICES
Upshot prices in the per kg
Apple 300/300
Banana 300/450
Banana (Makassar) 300/300
Beet 850/600
Cabbage 160/120
Cauliflower 220/370
Cucumber (large) 180/120
Cucumber (small) 180/120
Eggplant 200/220
Garlic 300/700
Grape 300/800
Guava 200/400
Lemon 180/120
Mango 160/120
Mango (large) 350/300
Mango (small) 350/300
Onion (dry) 170/120
Onion (wet) 300/200
Pepper (hot) 450/400
Pepper (sweet) 450/400
Pineapple 200/200
Sage 600/500
Spinach 320/160
Sweet melon 270/230
Tomato 400/380
Watermelon 160/120

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
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11:15 Sam (O)
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Mango (small) 350/300
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Onion (wet) 300/200
Pepper (hot) 450/400
Pepper (sweet) 450/400
Pineapple 200/200
Sage 600/500
Spinach 320/160
Sweet melon 270/230
Tomato 400/380
Watermelon 160/120

كندا في الجول

RJ inaugurates new route

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national airline, Royal Jordanian (RJ), has launched the Amman-Toronto route at the rate of one weekly flight and said that the new route was bound to bolster Jordanian-Canadian relations and boost Jordanian tourism.

An RJ statement said that the opening of the Amman-Toronto route, which took place Thursday in cooperation with Air Canada, marks one more step in expanding the national airline's routes to various corners of the world.

The new route manifests the revival of the national airline's activities which witnessed stagnation and recession during the Gulf crisis.

RJ Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh has said that RJ, which sustained heavy losses as a result of the Gulf crisis, was now returning to normal and increasing its volume.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, who last May estimated RJ's losses from the Gulf crisis at \$100 million, said that the airline's operations are gaining momentum. RJ officials cited the opening of the Amman-Beirut and later the Amman-Colombo routes in the summer as signs of improvement in the airline's world-wide operations.

The new route will also help stimulate trade exchanges between Canada and Jordan and contribute towards bringing in more tourist groups and marketing Jordan abroad, especially as Toronto has a large community of Arab descent, an official said.

The official said that the maiden flight along the new route was launched on a Tristar aircraft. At present, the flights will be made on Thursday's but a Monday flight might be added in the spring.

The official said that the decision to operate the Amman-Toronto route came after due studies and research on the part of the national airline.

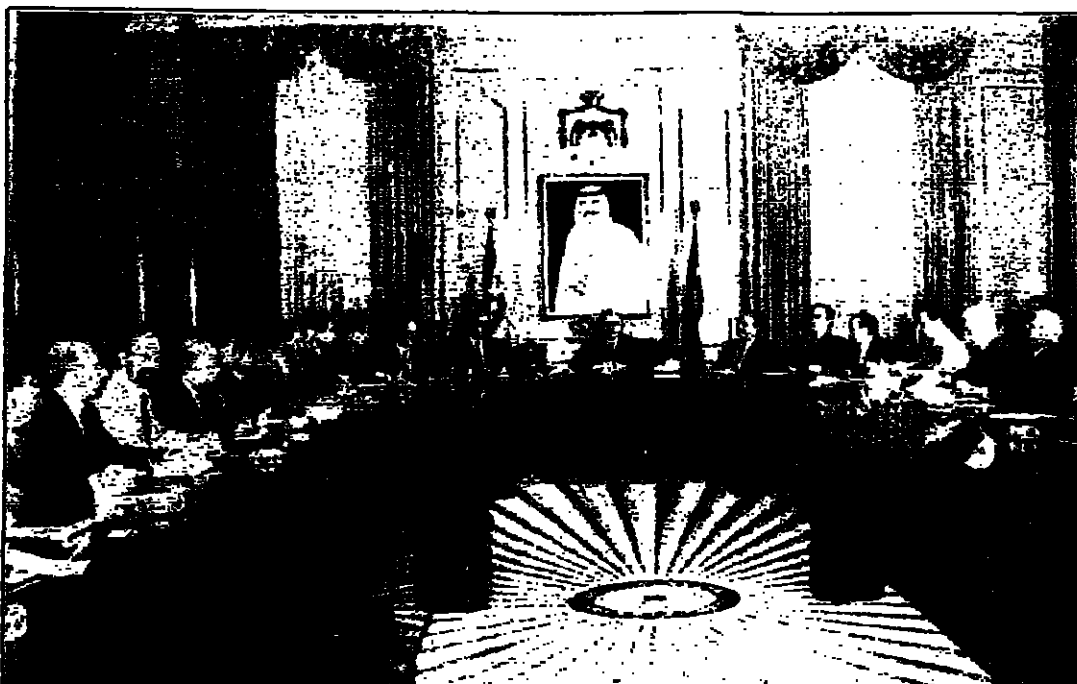
Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, leading a group of senior RJ officials, was in Toronto to receive the first flight and welcome the passengers. A team of representatives of the Jordanian travel and tourist offices from Jordan were also present at the airport.

RJ's maiden flight to Toronto coincided with a report from Indonesia that RJ was elected vice chairman at a conference by Ministers of Communication and Postal Services in the countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which is underway in the city of Bandung.

Addressing the conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Sabhat presented a number of working papers dealing with Jordan's endeavours in transport and communications fields with Arab and Islamic countries.

The conference, the second of its kind by OIC countries, was discussing a host of issues related to boosting communications among Islamic nations.

Mr. Sabhat is accompanied by heads of ministry departments responsible for postal and communications services including RJ.



GATHERING OF PEACE-SEEKERS: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received at the Royal Court members of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Peace Conference, and members of the Palestinian advisory committee, which accompanied the delegation to Madrid. King Hussein praised the unique performance of the joint delegation at the Madrid peace conference, noting that it won the Palestinian and Arab causes international support. The King called for further enhancing of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and stressed the importance of preparing

for the bilateral and multilateral talks. The King also exchanged views with members of the joint delegation and the advisory committee on a number of issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Taher Masiari, Royal Court Chief Sheikh Zaid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's military secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif.

Race promoting tourism begins

By Aileen Samayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Ruta Los Nabateos '91," a six-day desert safari on four-wheel drives, set out from Amman Friday morning and will follow the desert highways to reach Aqaba Thursday, Nov. 14.

Organised by a local tourism company in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian Airlines, the desert safari will be transmitted live on Spanish television by crews covering the event throughout its many stages.

All but one of the 27 participating teams have come from Spain. The aim of the safari is to acquaint the Spanish people with the archaeological and touristic sites in Jordan as well as to promote tourism in Jordan.

The team of Randa Al Nabehi and Najwa Al Hasan will represent Jordan in a four-wheel drive Toyota pick-up. Many other Jordanians would have participated, but it seems not much information was available and the event was not publicised enough.

"I'm taking part because I like auto sports and the adventure that goes with it, but I find the idea of only our team representing Jordan a bit strange," Randa Al Nabehi told the Jordan Times.

The route of the safari will take the participants from Amman to Aqaba via Al Azraq, the Dead Sea, Karak, Petra, Moudawara and Wadi Rum. The participants will spend a day at the Dead Sea and two nights in Petra and will camp along the way before concluding their safari in Aqaba.

French, Jordanian doctors exchange knowledge, expertise

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A scientific event, the first of its kind in Jordan, brought together French and Jordanian doctors who, for two days, last week, exchanged knowledge and the latest advances in the field of paediatrics and neonatology.

Organised by the Jordanian-French Medical Association, the two-day conference tackled child nutrition, renal, metabolic and renal diseases and care for mothers during the antenatal and neonatal period as well as monitoring pregnancies.

At a press conference held at the end of the parley, Professor J. Milliez, head of the French-Jordanian Medical Association, said that the choice of the theme for the conference — paediatrics — was not accidental, it was, besides a medical choice, a political one as well. "Separated by war, we decided to meet and discuss children, rebuild relations with the (Jordanian) Arab people. This was an occasion."

Dr. Fathieh Sandi, head of the Jordanian-French Medical Association, added: "Children make up 50 per cent of the population. They are the most vulnerable part of the society, our future. Children are a priority in any country. There is still a lot to do for children healthwise, but also socially, by educating parents, enhancing their awareness of dangers to children."

She said that the conference was successful in that more than 200 doctors participated in the talks and it was the first time a group of French doctors came to Jordan to impart their knowledge.

The novelty of the papers was represented in topics touching on AIDS infants, vaccination against hepatitis — which has just started in Jordan and is aimed at becoming a comprehensive practice throughout the Kingdom — new aspects of the lymphatic syndrome in renal diseases and the study of the possibility of expanding programmes for screening of the motor development and of the visual or hearing defects in children.

Interesting topics were those dealing with new treatment of meningitis with corticosteroids, besides antibiotics, and the modern methods of diagnosing antenatal uropathies, which give good results.

The organisers of the conference expressed satisfaction with the high scientific level and quality of exchanges.

"The first conclusion (we reached) is that the conference has met all the expectations we put in it. This is encouraging for the future when we aim at organising long-range scientific exchanges," said Prof. Milliez.

Earlier in the day, Her Majesty Queen Noor received at Al Ma'wa Palace representatives of the association. The Queen reviewed the significant progress Jordan has made in recent decades in the fields of child and mother care.

The Queen highlighted the conditions of women and children of poor families in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and said they are the primary victims of political, socio-economic and environmental tragedies.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on the importance of adopting an integrated approach encompassing health care whereby the physical, emotional, mental, political and socio-economic needs of individuals are addressed simultaneously to achieve maximum quality of life improvement.

The Queen cited the model Quality of Life Project, which the Noor Al Hussein Foundation is currently implementing in cooperation with the World Health Organisation, as a successful integrated development project which is based on health development priorities.

Prof. Milliez said the conference had set the pace for scientific collaboration and the association will continue to plan for joint activities which will benefit both the Jordanian and the French side.

UNRWA issues annual report, cites need for additional donations

Special from Vienna

IN HIS annual report to the United Nations General Assembly issued in New York on Nov. 4, the commissioner-general of UNRWA — the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Iler Turkmen, called on all potential donors for assistance so that UNRWA can continue providing essential services to the rapidly growing refugee community.

Continued financial support for UNRWA's programmes is essential to the lives and welfare of the refugee population, the commissioner-general emphasized. "Broadening the agency's donor base is therefore a major priority," he said.

Mr. Turkmen said that at the end of this year's reporting period in June 1991, Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA numbered 2,519,000. With a growth rate of about 3 per cent per year, this makes the refugees one of the most rapidly expanding population in the world. There were fewer than one million when the Agency began operations in 1950. The commissioner-general said that during the one-year reporting period, 157 Palestinians had been killed in clashes with the Israeli security forces. Schools had been shut down for around 40 per cent of the school year.

Mr. Turkmen described the effects of the Gulf crisis on UNRWA activities. Following a lengthy curfew in the West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA distributed food to the entire refugee population and to needy non-refugees. "Loss of earnings and remittances from the Gulf, reduction of domestic and export revenue and increased security measures dramatically aggravated unemployment and weakened still further the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza," Mr. Turkmen said. UNRWA's response has been to expand its income-generating activities and step up job creation through its own construction programme.

Mr. Turkmen expressed his hope that "Palestinians would share in the benefits of the general improvement of the situation in Lebanon," he said. But, he warned, UNRWA is currently faced with high unemployment among the refugees and lack of housing for up to 4,000 squatter families displaced by returning owners.

Between August 1990 and March 1991, "approximately 250,000 persons holding Jordanian passports arrived in Jordan, of whom the majority were of Palestinian origin." As a result, Mr. Turkmen explained, increased needs for education,

health, housing and employment are strongly felt by UNRWA. Throughout a difficult year, UNRWA continued to offer education, health and relief and social services programmes to the Palestine refugees.

UNRWA taught 365,000 students last year in grades 1-9 (and 10 in Lebanon). Over 5,000 students were trained in UNRWA vocational schools and 640 university scholarships were awarded. To counter the severe educational disturbances in West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA produced self-learning material and gave them to refugee children. But UNRWA students must live daily with overcrowding and inadequate facilities.

Mr. Turkmen reported that over 77 per cent of UNRWA students were on double shifts. Funds originally planned for school construction had to be used to avoid triple shifting. The commissioner-general noted that contributions "were not sufficient to meet the most urgent requirements of the programme within a reasonable period of time." As existing buildings continue to age and more students than ever before enter UNRWA schools, the situation becomes more critical.

UNRWA provided about 852,000 Palestine refugees with

primary health care during the reporting period, the commissioner-general said. Mr. Turkmen reported that UNRWA improved its first aid and basic life-support services in West Bank and Gaza during the reporting period. But refugee health needs outweigh UNRWA's resources. A high birth rate, high unemployment and sporadic violence mean overcrowding at health facilities, delays for patients and long working hours for UNRWA employees.

The demands on UNRWA's relief programme were stronger than ever this year, especially in the occupied territory where over 13 per cent of Gaza refugees were receiving direct relief. UNRWA provided financial aid, improvements on shelter and food and clothing to a growing number of needy refugees. But, as the commissioner-general explained, UNRWA is to provide not only relief but some job opportunities. To this end, social services were expanded for which the agency is in need of funds.

Mr. Turkmen welcomed the beginning of peace talks in Madrid and said that he hoped that the process now underway would lead in due course to a just and lasting settlement of the refugee problem and the Palestinian question as a whole.

Virus spread by whitefly responsible for crop damage, report concludes

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The primary cause of the failure of the 1990-91 tomato crop in the Jordan Valley region was the outbreak of a virus that was carried by the whitefly, a government report has found.

A British team of experts hired by the government of Jordan to determine the cause of the crop failure determined that the outbreak of Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV) damaged and incapacitated the crops in the Jordan Valley region.

The report directly contradicts the claim of farmers in the area that the crop failure had been caused by the use of polluted water from the King Talal Dam.

"Although the irrigation water comes from a catchment receiving industrial waste, the mission was given no pathological evidence to support speculation that heavy metal toxicity had damaged the crops," the report stated.

However, the team of British experts suggested that the full effects of the continued use of water from the King Talal Dam should be further studied. Specifically, they said in the report, the marketability of crops known to come from the area may be diminished.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Weshah, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, said the government would commission more studies to determine what, if any, were the effects of continued use of irrigation water from the King Talal Dam.

Dr. Walid Abu-Gharbieh, dean at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, said that the appearance of TYLCV was directly linked to the introduction of the whitefly in Jordan about 20 years ago. "This disease usually occurs on the tomato whenever the fly is there," he said. "If the whitefly is not there, the disease doesn't occur."

"The whitefly itself is new to Jordan," he continued. "We didn't have the disease or the whitefly but with the introduction of the whitefly, the disease began to occur."

The disease causes mottling and curling of the leaves, he said, resulting in the plant becoming smaller in size and incapable of producing normal fruits. The disease itself, he added, is eliminated when temperatures cool and the plant may recover to once again become viable.

But the continued presence of the whitefly, especially during the extended summers of the last four or five years, allows the disease to flourish again.

"The fly tries to feed upon the tomato," he said. "If it feeds on an infected tomato plant ... it acquires the virus. So when it flies to another virus-free plant, it feeds upon it and while feeding transmits the virus."

Insecticide-spraying campaigns being conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture are trying to eradicate the fly without much success, Dr. Abu-Gharbieh said.

In another finding, the British team found that the high salinity in water used to irrigate the crops may decrease the yield of sensitive crops such as banana by as much as 25 per cent.

"The salinity causes the plant to become weaker, smaller in size and, in extreme conditions, it becomes dwarfed and small," Dr. Abu-Gharbieh said.

Dr. Weshah said the JVA is addressing the problem by mixing fresh water from the Yarmouk River to water from the King Talal Dam, lowering the overall salt content.

Dr. Weshah stressed that the high salt content of the water from the King Talal Dam was not the cause of the failure of the tomato crop. "Tomato is a tolerant crop for salinity," he told the Jordan Times.

In another finding, the report found that the conditions which brought about the expansion of the whitefly and the resultant crop failure — drought, warm winters and unusual rainfall patterns — may recur, possibly again endangering crops.

Architectural designs of Arab cities to be studied at seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Working papers dealing with architectural studies on Aqaba, Salt and Irbid will be among a total of 11 working papers to be reviewed at a seminar on Jordanian cities due to open today.

Other papers on Arab cities, influences and actions by colonial powers affecting these cities and Arab and Islamic architectural style will be reviewed by the participants.

The history of Arab cities in general and means of developing modern Arab cities will also be discussed by seminar participants which is being held in the course of week-long activities organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) at the Professional Association Complex.

As part of the initial activities, Prime Minister Taher Masiari Thursday opened an exhibition displaying different facets of Arab and Islamic architecture.

The exhibition comprises three wings covering designs of architectural projects prepared by consultancy firms, universities and other organisations, photographs of Jordanian cities and amateur architectural work. The exhibition also displays posters and photographs of architectural work.

Coinciding with the seminar, which opens Saturday, groups of engineers will take part in a competition which entails going out to various parts of the country to collect information about architectural designs in Jordan.

JVA adopts distribution plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has adopted a plan by which it will ensure fair distribution of irrigation water in the Jordan Valley region in light of the scarce water resources, according to its secretary general.

Among the measures, cultivation of crops in the past summer season was curtailed and water from Al Himmeh Springs in northern Jordan were pumped to feed the King Abdullah Canal, whose water is used to irrigate farmlands in the valley, said Dr.

Abdul Aziz Weshah. He said that every measure is being taken to ensure that the quality of water reaching the farmlands was within the international acceptable standards. For this reason, the JVA is now mixing water from the King Talal Dam at the rate of 1200 litres per second with water from the Yarmouk River at the rate of 400 litres per second, he said.

At the same time, the JVA has been drilling artesian wells whose water has been fed into the main canal in the valley.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Items of our Heritage" by Hana Sadeq Burdon at Baladna Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Ateeb Atwan at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of photos by Thierry Girard at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handicraft items at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting scenes from Aqaba and Jordan by Jordanian artist Kamel Shahawi Yassin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Samira Abdul Wahab at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Eide eiser Distanzfahrt" at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

Local Short Term Consultant Diagnostic Evaluation in UNRWA Schools

UNRWA Headquarters Branch, Amman-School Education Division - is seeking for a consultant to work during a period of 2 months in development and production of "Diagnostic Tests" for the lower elementary level in the Arabic language. The incumbent will work under the supervision of the Chief School Education Division and as part of a team of specialists in lower elementary, Arabic and remedial education.

Qualifications:

- The candidates should have:
 - a) A post-graduate teaching in education with some specialisation in evaluation or primary education.
 - b) Experience in the design and development of tests, specially educational diagnostic instruments an asset.
 - c) Fluency in Arabic necessary but all candidates with above mentioned qualifications are welcomed to apply.

Applications should reach our office by Nov. 17, 1991
Address: Head of Administration
P.O.Box 484,
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The services of a professional consultant in Agricultural Policy and Strategy Development with emphasis on research and technology transfer are needed on a part time basis for twelve (12) months. Applicants must have an M.Sc. degree, at least fifteen (15) years of experience and preferably held responsible senior positions in formulating policy and strategy for agricultural development at the national level.

Interested candidates who believe they are qualified to provide these services may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the Administrative Assistant at:

National Agricultural Development Project Technical Assistance and Services Office
National Centre for Agricultural Research & Technology Transfer
Baq'a - Amman - Jordan
Telephone No. 725411/2
Fax No. 726099

Applications must be delivered by hand by 14:00 on Saturday, November 16th, 1991.

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Palestinians in Lebanon — a dwindling foothold

By Rosemary Sayigh

INHABITANTS of Shatila camp for 25 years, Abu Qasim and his family left after the intra-Fatah battle of May and June 1988. Veteran of the Amal sieges, he was disgusted by this episode. Now he lives with his wife and four children on the 12th floor of a walk-up building full of displaced people. He refused to take money from any of the resistance groups, preferring to work as a day labourer and keep his independence. His children are in UNRWA schools.

He shows me extensive scarring above the knee. In the Beirut area, if a man does not belong to a pro-Syrian group he is considered an "Arafatist." Informed against by the dissidents, he was picked up and beaten so badly by the Syrians that he had to be treated in hospital. A Palestinian to whom I express shock at Abu Qasim's story tells me, "I see dozens of cases like his every week."

Every family here has its bleak chronicle; Umm Mahmoud looks after a family of eleven: five children, four grandchildren, and her disabled husband. Their home in Shatila is destroyed. The two older daughters, both widows, are looking for work; the sewing factory that employed them shut down because of the Gulf war. On the walls are the photos of three sons killed in the Amal sieges.

Umm Mahmoud shows me photos of their three-storey home and small grocery store. There is a tree-shaded courtyard and rugs hanging from the balconies. A bride and bridegroom cut a lacey wedding cake. Now they are in a small, dark flat, lent them by a

relative; but they are luckier than most families in Gaza Building, who are without running water, electricity or private lavatories. Nowhere in the diaspora have Palestinians suffered as much as in Lebanon. There are women I lack the courage to meet, mothers who have lost all their children. "Nahnu Sha'b Mankub," says Abu Qasim, we are a people doomed to disaster. Abu Mujahid compares Palestinians in Lebanon to women who have many children, all of whom die in infancy. He is not optimistic about the future.

Insecurity

Since the Sabra and Shatila massacre, Palestinians have been the target of arrests, detentions, beatings and killings. Attacks have varied, depending on the period and location: the Lebanese Forces, the SLA, Amal, the Lebanese army, the Syrian army and pro-Syrian resistance groups. Roadblocks are the most usual sites of aggression. Since 1988, a great many men from the Beirut area have spent time in Mezzar Prison near Damascus (600 of them were released in March this year). There is no systematic monitoring of such violations.

The restoration of Lebanese army control to the camps, a basic strand in the government's Palestinian policy, cannot but arouse foreboding. People remember the repression of the '60s installed by President Chehab, the battles of 1969, 1973 and 1975-6. In 1982-83 Mr. Gemayel's army pursued a campaign of mass arrests in the Beirut camps, while special units pursued individuals. Later, in May 1985, when Amal

launched its first attack against Sabra and Shatila, the army brokered a ceasefire to separate the two sides, then helped Amal to regain lost positions. During the Sidon battle, around 500 Palestinians were arrested at army checkpoints on the Sidon-Beirut road (most were students going to take exams, others were fleeing the battle). After the ceasefire, Lebanese army commanders are reported to have told their adversaries, "you Palestinians caused the break-up of the Lebanese army. Now we shall rebuild our unity on your blood."

Fear of vengeance is not lessened by the integration into the army of several thousand Lebanese Forces and Amal militiamen. On the agenda of the PLO's talks with the Lebanese government initiated last April was a proposal that the camps should be patrolled by mixed Lebanese-Arab-Palestinian units. This is likely to be energetically rejected by the army.

Displacement and homelessness

A recent partial survey carried out by PARD (Popular Aid for Relief and Development, a Palestinian NGO set up in 1985 to help those displaced during the Amal-Palestinian battles) found a total of 4,468 homeless families scattered over 87 makeshift locations. More than three quarters have been displaced twice or more, 20 per cent three times or more. An UNRWA register of families whose home have ever been destroyed has passed 7,000.

The "Battle of the Camps" (1985-7) was a particularly destructive episode for the inhabitants of Sabra, Shatila, Burj Al Barajna and Rashidiya. Many inhabitants of these camps have not been able to return, or have not dared to. These swell the numbers of people from camps destroyed in other wars — Nabarsiya, Dhibaya, Jar Al Basha, Tall Al Zatar. An estimate of the displaced in West Beirut is 20,000, but there are other shantytowns around Ain Al-Hilwa and Nahr Al Barid. Yet others are scattered along the coast between Beirut and Sidon, and in the Beqaa. Conditions in most displacement locations are below those in camps; concentrated in the camps, UNRWA and other social services may be hard to reach.

What will happen to these people? According to Taif, all those displaced by war will return to their original homes. As "stabilisation" proceeds, Palestinians will be ordered to leave the occupied buildings and empty land which have been "home" for many since the early '70s. Already some families have received notices to quit. The problem is where to go? No new camp sites have been set up since the mid-50s, in spite of natural population increase; five have been razed by war. Low-income Palestinians cannot afford to buy or rent at current prices, pushed up by inflation and a building shortage.

Under the resistance, Palestinians starved for space spread into waste land around camp sites. No more. On July 17 police accompanied by bulldozers came to reclaim land on the edge of Mar Elias camp, which had been used by UNICEF as a children's playground. Similar recoveries are expected to follow in other areas.

Employment, income and living standards

Always precarious, the material survival of Palestinians in Lebanon is threatened by a combination of old and new constraints. Classified by law as "foreigners," holders of Palestinian ID cards need work permits; these may be refused, are costly and have to be renewed yearly. Depending on the government's mood, the law can be stretched to cover small shopkeepers, craftsmen, even barrow-vendors. Palestinian workers are also required by law to contribute 18 per cent of their salary to a social security fund from which they cannot benefit. The reconstruction of the state means that these rules will be applied with renewed vigour.

In the '70s, Palestinian income and living standards rose as a result of remittance, higher technical skills, and the growth of an alternative Palestinian economy based on the resistance. This brief "golden age" was sharply reversed by the 1982 invasion, bringing heavy human and material losses and the end of many PLO jobs and benefits. With the Lebanese economy practically closed to Palestinian labour, and migration to the Gulf sharply reduced, unemployment was widespread until the return of the resistance in 1985.

Other factors since 1982 have contributed to lowering living standards: steep inflation linked to the Lebanese economic crisis; losses from further rounds of fighting; cuts in aid and services. The Gulf war has also affected Palestinians in Lebanon, through

loss of jobs and remittances. Families without salaried workers, dependent upon aid, are particularly vulnerable.

Some ideas of the extent of near destitution is given by the figure of UNRWA's "hardship cases": 8,636 families comprising 34,000 individuals as of March 1991. To appreciate this figure, one needs to know first, that there is a ceiling on the total sum available, second that to qualify, the family head should be dead, handicapped, over 60, or an under-age orphan; the family should have no son over 18; and its monthly income should not exceed \$90. According to a social worker, 60 per cent of Palestinians in Lebanon are currently living below the U.N. poverty line. If people are not visibly starving, it is because of free accommodation and the fact that the resistance still provides a minimal safety net.

The impact of the Taif process on Palestinian employment will become clearer in the next few months. In April, the PLO asked that its 10,000 fighters in south Lebanon be reorganised into a PLA unit under Lebanese army command. There were some signs of Syrian support for this proposal. Now, with Lebanese-PLO negotiations frozen, and the Lebanese army encouraged by its victory in Sidon, it is likely that all Palestinian demands — military, political and civic — will be ignored. If the eventual outcome is demobilisation of most resistance fighters and cadres, without compensatory investment in Palestinian workshops and training, the situation will become much more serious — Middle East International.

Dilemma of government

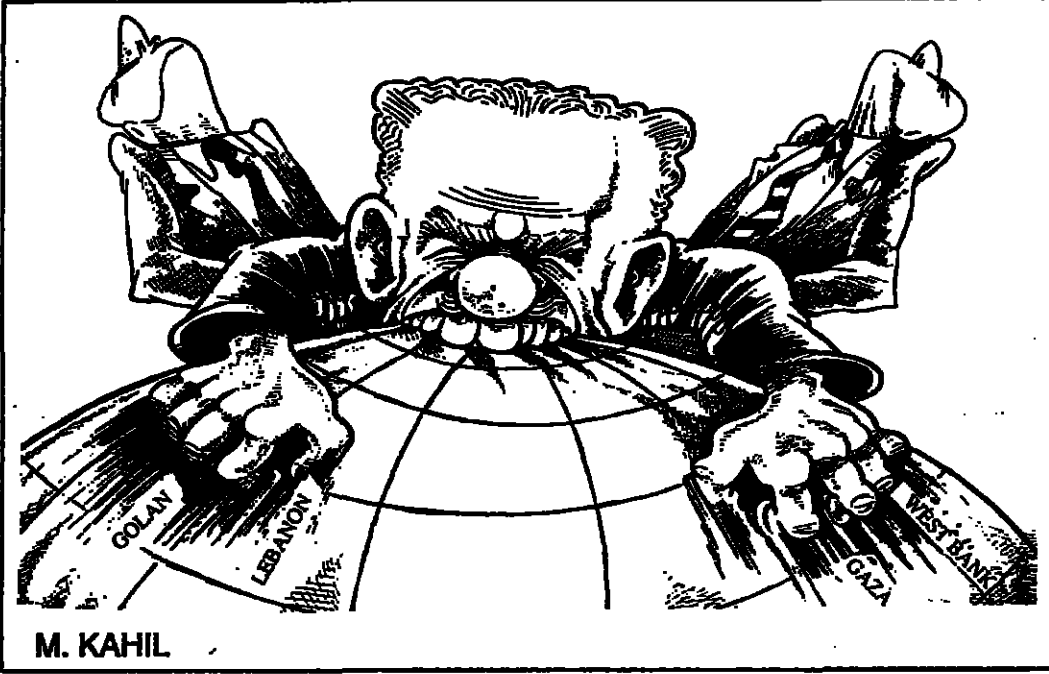
PRIME MINISTER Taher Masri is not to be envied. While he prepares himself for the convening of the Lower House of Parliament's third ordinary session he is racing against time to secure a majority of 41 votes for his government by December 5. Last month, while the House was in recess, 49 deputies out of 80 called on him to resign, even though, as it turned out, they had different reasons for doing so. By Dec. 5 their reasons will still be there. So a repeat of last month's "convenience of interest" might still persist and force the government out of office. To avert this Mr. Masri is currently going into a political fight to ensure a continuation of his mandate and the realisation of his newly-acquired vision, the transformation and modernisation of Jordan's institutions. After all the appointment of Mr. Masri as prime minister was understood to have meant the introduction of new blood and new concepts into the Kingdom's politics. But that vision could not be achieved, of course, without the consent and cooperation of existing institutions. And Parliament is proving itself to have become a powerful institution. Short of dissolving it, we have to live with it, get its consent and cooperation and look at it, albeit with some scepticism, as the guardian of democracy. We have to do that because many House deputies are vying for power and power alone. They have formed blocs, only one of which is based on ideology, the Muslim Brotherhood. Being the largest bloc in the House, the Brotherhood knows that it can through alliances bring the government down. Yet the bloc knows also very well that, given the difficult circumstances in the region and the Brotherhood's declared position on the peace process, it cannot secure it power, at least not at the present stage. The other blocs, the independent Islamists, the Constitutionalists, the Nationalists and Democrats are not all after power, but many of their members are. Apart from the Democrats, themselves divided, the other blocs have no problem with the Masri government's declared positions, especially on the peace process. The Democrats are split on the peace negotiations. On other issues they, like the others, have no alternative, as one of them has said recently. One other area of contention among the blocs is the seat of House speaker, also coming up Dec. 5. Each of the blocs has a candidate. So there we are: 80 deputies eyeing 25 cabinet posts at the government house on Fourth Circle and one seat at the House itself — in Abdali.

So what choices does Mr. Masri have? He can either form a government that is completely parliamentary, or one which is all non-parliamentary or a mixed one. Either choice has its advantages and disadvantages. One danger is to appoint deputies in posts that require technocrats or require people who know more about their field of work than all deputies put together do. Some deputies, it is well known, aspire to posts they cannot handle. This is when democracy equals mediocrity. We hope it does not come to that. But if it does, it will be part of the legacy that Taher Masri and his generation of young politicians inherit.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Friday voiced appreciation of the efforts exerted by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, but it said that the real battle has not yet begun and it requires ample preparations and hard work. The paper said the delegation should arm itself with vast information about the Arab-Israeli situation and be ready for the coming campaign to ensure the return of Arab rights in the Arab homeland. We are not trying to belittle what has already been achieved, said the paper, but we try to warn against underestimating the enemy's desire to carry out manoeuvres to abort the peace process. The paper said that national unity is required now more than ever before and full backing for negotiators is essential at this crucial stage so that the country can achieve success in its national endeavours. The negotiation process is long and difficult and the start of the peace process in Madrid can never mean that peace is in sight, the paper said. Our initial successes in Madrid, said the paper, serve as an incentive for the negotiators to work harder, and the public to offer them full support and assistance, added the paper. The paper said national unity remains one of the main elements for any success, especially under the present circumstances.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily tackled the question of continued Israeli aggression on Lebanon, accusing the Israelis of being determined to abort the peace process at any cost. The paper said that the Shamir government has never harboured the idea of having peace with the Arab countries and for this reason it is trying to provoke the Arab countries into abandoning the peace process. By building settlements and maintaining aggression on Arab states, Israel is showing the world its true evil intentions of achieving Zionism's ambitious designs and fulfilling the dream of a greater Israel at the expense of the Arab lands, said the paper. The Shamir government is hoping that the Arabs would get fed up and withdraw from the peace process leaving the field to the Israelis to perpetuate their occupation of Arab lands, it said. The paper said that the Shamir government, faced with the initial Arab successes at the Madrid peace conference, seems to be trying to find a way to abort the peace process and deny the Arabs full success. What is needed now, said the paper, is full awareness and vigilance on the part of the Arab negotiators, especially the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as the next stage of the peace negotiations is about to begin.



Annexing 13% of West Bank keeps most settlers in Israel

By Jon Immanuel

AT least 70 per cent of Israelis living in West Bank could be brought within Israel's borders without moving them an inch, by annexing just 13 per cent of the West Bank with an Arab population under 50,000, according to most recent population figures. In the most concentrated area of settlement, almost one-third of the entire Jewish population of the West Bank lives on 4 per cent of the land, among fewer than 25,000 of the West Bank's 800,000 Palestinians.

These statistics are drawn from an examination of Jewish and Arab population figures, dating from June, obtained from the Council of Settlements and the Civil Administration in the West Bank. They suggest that Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank are not inextricably meshed, making separation of the West Bank from Israel impossible, but that Israel does have a decisive demographic hold on specific areas.

The 13 per cent land area includes six separate regions contiguous to the pre-1967 border, with more than 40 settlements. It encompasses all but two of the 10 largest settlements. Control over this area would, for topographical reasons, increase access to the main aquifers which are found beneath the coastal side of the territories.

The area around Rosh Ha'ayin, where settlement is most intensive, is especially convenient for drilling and provides relatively cheap water, a spokesman for Mekorot, the national water carrier, said.

Lack of access to this area would drive up water costs to Palestinians, adding to the toughness of negotiations over the area, but also providing a reason for mutual concessions. Since most of the government's building activity is currently taking place within these six areas,

the figures indicate that, despite its declared determination to eventually settle the Land of Israel, it is concentrating on consolidating certain parts.

Although well over half the area of the West Bank has been bought or declared state land, more than 80 per cent will remain unsettled or contain only small, isolated settlements as the government heads into the first stage of peace talks.

Area 1 includes Ariel and has 32,000 Jewish inhabitants on 220 square kilometres.

Area 2, surrounds Area 1, and has about 3,000 Israelis on about 250 square kilometres.

Area 3 includes Gush Etzion, with 5,000 on 100 square kilometres.

Area 4, Ma'aleh Adumim, 15,000 on 70 square kilometres.

Area 5, Givat Ze'ev, 6,000 on 50 square kilometres.

Area 6 around Latrun has about 5,000 Israelis on 90 square kilometres.

This totals 66,000 people on 780 square kilometres. In addition, several of the 14 new settlements on the Green Line but these areas will eventually expand into them. The total area of the West Bank is almost 6,000 square kilometres and the highest estimated number of Jewish residents is 85,000-100,000.

Two other areas — eight settlements south of Hebron (200 square kilometres) and three west of Jenin (40 square kilometres) — can be linked easily to Israel without annexing virtually any Arab villages. They add little to the Jewish population, but would require annexation of an additional 4 per cent of the land.

The Jordan Valley with its 25 settlements covers 1,000 square kilometres (some 17 per cent of the West Bank) of sparsely populated territory would add little Jewish population, but the northern section could be sliced off if the intention is to keep as many Israelis as possible where they are, while still leaving close to 90 per cent of the land for a possible

Palestinian state. These nine areas include more than 76 of the approximately 130 settlements.

About 35 very small settlements — some of them the most ideologically committed to an integral Land of Israel, like Kiryat Arba (pop. 5,500), Jewish neighbourhoods in Hebron, Elon Moreh near Nablus, and Eli, Shilo and Ofra, north of Ramallah — could not be incorporated within Israel's borders without annexing a much larger amount of the territories and a sizeable Arab population.

The heartland of Jewish settlement in the West Bank is bordered by Ariel, Kedumim, Alfei Menashe and Oranit. It occupied 4 per cent of the territory, includes at least 32 per cent of the Jewish population in the West Bank, and, in Barkan, has the largest industrial park in the country.

In this area alone, more than 5,500 housing units (of no more than 15,000 planned in the next 18 months) are in the process of being built or are in the ground-breaking stage. This will potentially increase the population from an estimated 32,000 to more than 55,000 within 18 months, bringing it up to 40 per cent of the Jewish population in the West Bank.

The area already boasts more Jews than Arabs and more Jewish settlements than Arab ones. Its total Palestinian population does not surpass 25,000. Kalkilya is the only substantial town which could not be excluded from Israel if both Areas 1 and 2 were annexed.

The 14 Palestinian villages in the area include Azzun and Bidya, with a combined population of 6,650. A handful of the others have almost 2,000 residents; most have fewer than 1,000.

The Jewish villages are connected by a network of roads which ensures that no Israeli need ever pass through an Arab village — The Jerusalem Post.

The week in print

U.S. will reap glory or shame of peace talk

THE Jordanian press in the past week dedicated its commentary and the writers' columns mostly to the peace process and prospects for its success and failure, but domestic coverage was also given some attention.

In the view of Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, the Madrid conference was a complete American accomplishment. He said that the U.S. administration had convinced all the parties to head for Madrid and assured them that the conference would be crowned with success. Therefore, he said, any failure would be squarely placed on the U.S. administration.

Another columnist in Al Ra'i, Bader Abdul Haq, criticised the United States for refraining from imposing its will on the Israelis to force them to abandon the Arab lands. The writer said that when Washington says it cannot impose solutions on the Israelis and the Arabs, it is offering Mr. Shamir a free hand and hardening his position at the negotiations. Such an attitude, Abdul Haq said, gives rise to questions about the real intentions of the U.S. administration and its plans for the Middle East region in the coming stage.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the peace conference does not mean capitulation to the enemy because, in order to achieve peace, the Arabs and the Israelis sooner or later have to sit and talk. Mousa Kilani said a recent survey showed that 96 per cent of the Jordanian citizens are for the conference and they bless the bid to achieve peace.

He said that under the new and continued developments on the world scene, the Arabs should not remain passive and allow Israel to have a free hand in the occupied territories.

Sawt Al Shaab daily urged Presidents George Bush and Gorbachev to interfere in the second stage of the peace conference and put an end to the arrogance of the Shamir government.

Should the Israeli prime minister be allowed to have his way, he would abort the whole peace process through his intransigent position and through his determination to foil Arab attempts to regain

their rights, it said.

Al Ra'i daily supported this view in a commentary and said that Israel should not be allowed to pursue its provocation of Arab countries and should be stopped from continuing its aggression on Lebanon, meant at achieving, that aim and force the Arabs to withdraw from the peace conference.

The paper said that Mr. Shamir's actions constituted a serious challenge to Washington and Moscow which are co-sponsoring the peace parity.

According to Hoshi Ayyesh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, the peace conference will prove one of two things: that the international legality and U.N. resolutions are respected in all cases, or, the inability of international power to end aggression and occupation, which means continued prevalence of the law of the jungle.

In the view of columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, initial sessions at the Madrid conference dealt a defeat to Mr. Shamir who hurried home to escape facing further setbacks.

Salameh Ekour said that Mr. Shamir was left isolated at the Madrid meeting and his attitude proved to the world that his government was not oriented towards peace in exchange for land, but rather towards ignoring the Palestinian rights and hold on to occupied territory.

Mohammad Doudieh in Al Dustour said that Israel would remain the enemy of the Arab World until it ends its aggression and its occupation of Arab land.

The writer said that if Israel is really oriented towards peace, it could at least halt its provocation against the Lebanese, stop the ongoing settlements and end its attacks against Arab citizens of the occupied territories.

Taher Al Udwan said in Al Dustour that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the conference has done well at the peace conference and it is hoped that its continued endeavours will help restore Palestinian rights.

The writer advocated the idea of the Jordan-Palestine confederation which, he said, would boost the delegation's drive to restore Arab sovereignty to the Arab lands

grow under Israeli rule.

Another columnist, Saleh Al Qallab, said Jordanian-Palestinian coordination was a necessity for a successful outcome of the peace conference. The writer said that the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, which was supported by the Palestine National Council and the PLO, can be the best solution for any problem facing the peace conference and putting an end to Israel's provocations in withdrawing from Arab lands.

Referring to the expected government reshuffle, Tareq Masarweh said that Prime Minister Taher Masri will be advised to hold consultations with all the parliamentary blocs before embarking on a wide-base reshuffle which, he said, should see members of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Constitutional Bloc entering the government.

The writer said that the two blocs include some of Jordan's veteran politicians who can best shoulder responsibility for government.

The recent government decision to increase taxes on non-essential commodities and to reduce them on essentials drew mixed reaction from columnists in the Jordanian press.

Fakhri Kassar was obviously unhappy about the increases in the prices of cigarettes. He said that those affected by the decision are limited-income groups who smoke locally cigarettes, which will also be affected by the measure. The writer said that if this measure is imposed, the government should find a way for increasing the income of the low-income groups so they would buy the expensive essential commodities.

Salameh Ekour, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said that the government's decision to reduce customs duty on 205 commodities was a welcome development, but he said the government should control the merchants selling these commodities because they tend to keep the prices high to make higher profits. The writer said that the Jordanian citizens welcome government moves to help them cope with the soaring prices of various goods, but hope that the government would strictly monitor the merchants' behaviour and stem their greed.

Kuwaiti women want promised political role

By Ghada Al Sawi
Reporter

KUWAIT — Many Kuwaiti women are dynamic, highly-educated and successful in business. Spurning the stereotype of tucked away Muslim wives, they are pressing for a bigger political voice.

They say their vital role in resisting Iraq's seven-month occupation of their homeland has earned them the right to be part of political life.

Kuwaiti women are by law unable to become ministers or vote. The highest ranking women are assistant under-secretaries. They cannot be diplomats, judges or prosecutors.

"If our constitution ensures justice, freedom, and equality to all citizens... it is unjust to deprive women of their right to vote and be elected," said Rasha Al Sabah, a member of the royal family and assistant director of Kuwait University.

"I don't think women in this country will get their political rights before the coming century," she said.

Many women were out on the streets resisting Iraq's occupation when some men were hiding at home, she added.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah promised to give women more political say when he was in exile in Saudi Arabia during the Iraqi occupation last year.

"It seems everybody forgot these promises," said Ms. Rasha. The emir has praised Kuwaiti women for their "strength, endurance and ability to bear all kinds of mistreatment and difficulties" during the occupation.

The government has asked the national assembly to debate women's right to vote. It will in turn make recommendations to the new parliament which is due to be elected next year.

A dynamic and outspoken woman, Rasha Al Sabah broke

away from the strict Islamic norms of her country to become the first and only Kuwaiti woman to run a diwaniyah, a traditional venue where men meet to discuss politics and business.

At one of her weekly Monday night diwaniyahs, women and men engaged in heated debates on Women's role in Kuwaiti society.

A psychology professor at Kuwait University, Qasem Al Sarraf, said Kuwaiti women had proved they were equal to men through their active resistance to the Iraqi occupation.

"Kuwaiti women have proved they are not less than men in any thing, especially during the occupation, that's why they must have their right to vote and be elected," he said.

But member of parliament Sager Al Anzy disagreed. "Women should have a right to vote, but not to be elected." "It is not the right time," he added, but did not say why.

The women at the diwaniyah are part of a growing elite forging new paths in this conservative Islamic state revolutionised by oil wealth.

As in other traditional Islamic societies unrelated men and women rarely mix, women rarely smoke in public and arranged marriages are still common.

But Kuwaiti women, freed from household chores by their country's tremendous oil wealth which enables them to hire maids, are clamouring for work and education.

Even Kuwait's firefighting team tackling oil wells set alight by Iraqi troops has a woman working alongside the men.

Such ambitions would have been difficult to realise here only a few years ago and still are in most Gulf Arab states.

In neighbouring Saudi Arabia a fundamentalist strain of Islam bars women from driving and segregates the sexes.

But Kuwait's early start in oil

production in the 1940s and its history of contact with more liberal societies have enabled its women to march into the workplace since they first got university degrees in Cairo in the 1950s.

The most popular women's businesses are small boutiques and workshops, especially for clothing and jewellery.

But as education spreads, so will female employment in a country with only 700,000 citizens that is trying to cut dependence on foreign labour.

Rasha Al Sabah said two thirds of the students enrolled at Kuwait University were women.

Many say they are eager to take part in rebuilding their country, the infrastructure of which was destroyed by Iraq's invasion.

"When women ask for their right to vote and be elected they

don't mean to compete with men, but to participate in rebuilding the country," said Najema Al Kharafi, a psychology professor.

"It is not fair to take our traditions as an excuse not to give women their rights... all of us are citizens on this land and our rights were ensured by our constitution," she said.

Women in executive positions say they face no problems from men working for them but complain of discrimination by the state.

"Kuwaiti working women do not have the same rights as men. For example men working in the public sector get allowances when they are married and have families, but married women don't," said Badriya Youssef Al Ali, head librarian at Kuwait University.

Hawatmeh: DFLP does not oppose

(Continued from page 1)

which we hope a genuine and comprehensive peace will be achieved, to guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Hawatmeh voiced the DFLP's support for the Middle East peace process and categorically denied that it opposed the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid on Oct. 30.

"We are advocates of peace and want to actively participate in the peace process, provided that all Palestinians be represented and that such representation be coordinated with Arab countries," he said.

Israel should stop its settlement activity in the occupied territories "so that negotiations will not end

up by the loss of Palestinian soil," he said.

He said he expected the second round of talks between Arab and Israeli delegation to be strenuous and extremely difficult, and called on the Arabs to reconsider their calculations and draw serious plans to push for a just, comprehensive and balanced peace.

He reiterated that the Palestinian uprising was the strongest weapon for the Palestinians and called for supporting it and enhancing national unity. He also called for placing the issue of the Palestinian refugees high on the agenda of the forthcoming round of talks between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel.

Syria firm on progress

(Continued from page 1)

Egypt attended the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last week as an observer.

It is in contact with the parties to the talks, and with the PLO, to set the place and date for a second round of direct talks between Israel and each of Syria, Lebanon and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Arab diplomats said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas was expected in Cairo Saturday to prepare for a visit next week by Mr. Arafat, his second in three weeks.

The foreign ministers of Egypt,

Syria and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which also attended the Madrid conference as an observer, will start meeting in Cairo Sunday to discuss Gulf security and the second phase of peace talks.

Arab diplomats and PLO officials in Cairo earlier said the bilateral meetings would probably take place in the United States in the third week of November.

They said a likely venue was Williamsburg, Virginia, a picturesque town of restored 18th-century colonial buildings south of Washington.

Israeli driver attacked in W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

had signed the proper papers on condition that the move not be published at a sensitive time.

Mr. Tertman said Maaleh Adumim was made a city on Oct. 24, adding there was no publicity because the ceremony marking the change would not take place for at least another two months.

Maale Adumim, which has a population of about 16,000, is the first settlement to be designated a city in the occupied territories.

Settler leaders say 112,000 Jews now live in 142 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Cabinet reshuffle faces obstacles

(Continued from page 1)

disregard the possibility that some members of the Constitution Bloc, which has no popular political or ideological base, would remain committed to their bloc's decision if they were excluded from the reshuffle.

Constitution Bloc leaders dismiss these fears by the government on the grounds that they have a "unified" position and will stand by their agreement with the government and work on allaying suspicions about their intentions.

"I think a judgement can only be made through open dialogue over these points and through the real test of reaching agreement," said a senior source from the Constitution Bloc.

Maxwell to be buried in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

"Unfortunately, the autopsy is totally provisional," she said. "It takes much more than two days to arrive at any conclusion that is of any value."

She said suicide was out of the question.

The London newspaper the Independent said Friday there was growing evidence Mr. Maxwell suffocated to death. It said Mr. Maxwell suffered from pulmonary edema, also known as water on the lungs, and had been unable to shake off a heavy cold.

Chief coroner Carlos Lopez said the Spanish autopsy will not be finished until next week when laboratory tests on samples from Mr. Maxwell's body have been returned.

Investigating Judge Luis Gutierrez said Wednesday preliminary findings showed Mr. Maxwell died of natural causes before apparently falling off the yacht. He said Mr. Maxwell did not drown.

The death certificate listed heart failure as the cause of death, according to the British consulate.

Meanwhile, onetime Israeli intelligence employee Ari Ben-Menashe said Friday that Mr. Maxwell was a conduit for arms sales to Iran and that many people wanted to keep him quiet.

Mr. Ben-Menashe, a key source for investigative reporter Seymour Hersh's recent book "The Samson Option," said in an interview in Sydney, Australia, that Mr. Maxwell worked for the Israeli government and "was very close to the Israeli prime minister's office."

Israeli leaders have mourned Mr. Maxwell as a great friend of Israel. He reportedly invested \$300 million in the Jewish state, was active in Jewish immigration issues and had close ties with Israeli leaders.

The funeral was expected to be attended by President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, head of the opposition Labour Party. Mirror group newspapers in London said Mr. Maxwell's body will lie in state for an hour on Sunday before being buried on the Mount of Olives.

The Israeli daily Maariv, in which Mr. Maxwell had a majority share, said eulogies will be delivered by Mr. Herzog, the publisher's son Philip, and Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen, chief rabbi of Haifa and an old friend of Mr. Maxwell.

Memorial services for Mr. Maxwell are due to be held later in London and New York but no details have yet been announced.

Bomb rips through heart of AUB

(Continued from page 1)

aggression. It is an attack on Lebanon, an attack on the coming generations and the children of Lebanon," Mr. Khatib said.

"We have determined from investigations that the explosion was caused by a car bomb," he said. "The explosive-laden green olive Volkswagen van entered campus from the western gate."

A security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the culprits "broke the iron gate on the western fence and drove their vehicle to campus. They couldn't have done that in daytime when streets are crowded."

"Had the bomb went off during schools hours, when administration offices and the library are usually packed, the casualty toll could have been much higher. It could have been a massacre," he said.

The car bomb was the first in the capital since March 29 when four people were killed and 22 wounded in the northern suburb of Antelias.

The bombers struck on the anniversary of the founding by American missionaries of the oldest English-language university in the Middle East. AUB has no direct connections to the U.S. government but it has been the symbolic centre of Washington's influence in Lebanon since it opened on Nov. 8, 1866.

Classes for AUB's 5,000 students were cancelled till Monday.

The blast broke almost every window of the 50 buildings on the three-tiered campus, set in 28 hectares of ground, and of those in nearby streets.

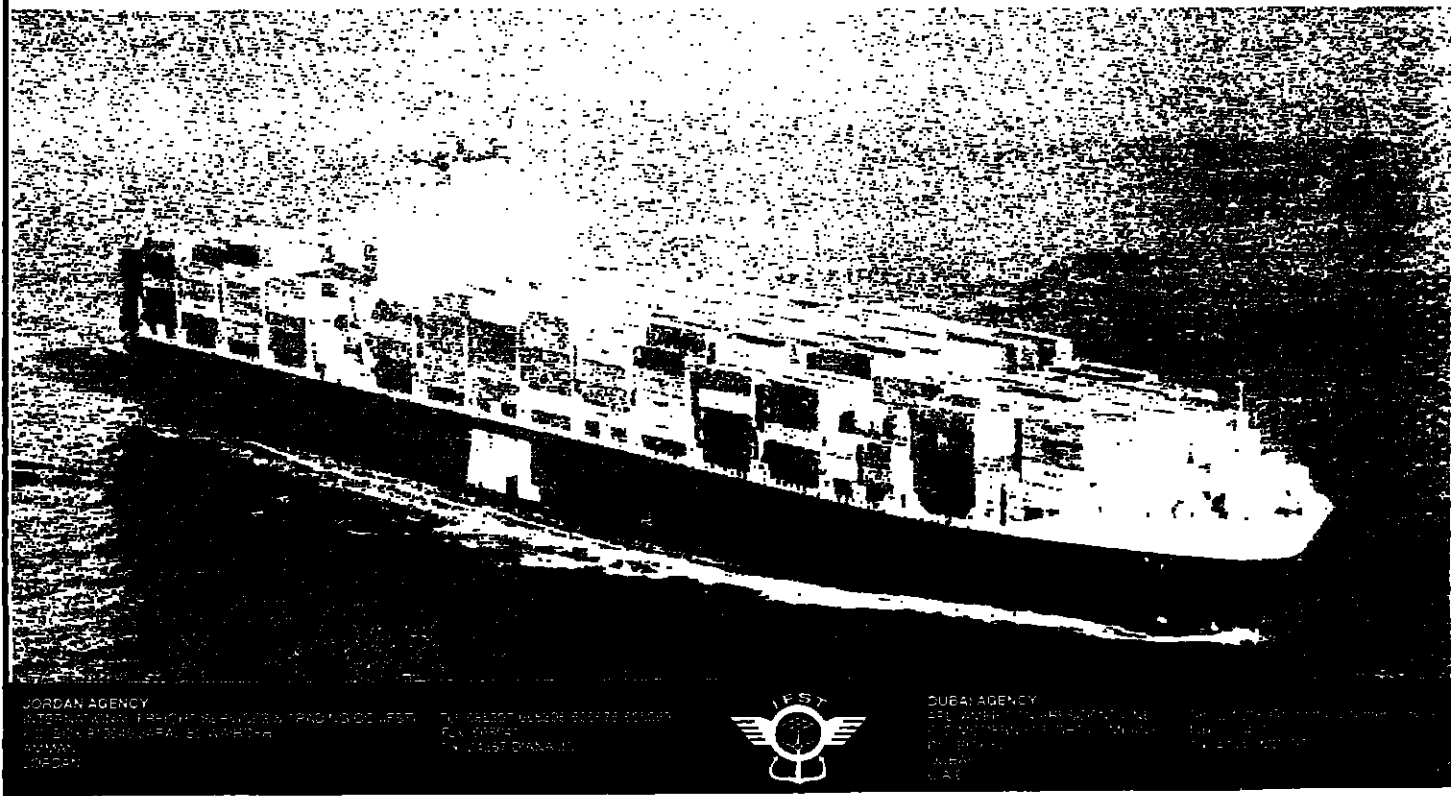
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'Magic' Johnson has AIDS virus, retires

He unveiled a flag of red, green and blue stripes on a grey di-

Johnson, who found out he had the virus Wednesday afternoon, said he would campaign for "safe sex" practices, which can



is another challenge, another chapter in my life. It's like your back is against the wall and you just have to come out swinging. And that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to go on. I'm going to

Portugal's Benfica, who last won in 1962, were the only ex-champions apart from Red Star in the draw.

English hopefuls Liverpool, four times winners of the European Cup, were drawn away to Swarovski Tirol of Austria for their third round first-leg UEFA Cup tie.

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10-12

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DEPOSIT?

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DON'T, BE SILLY! I DON'T WISH TO PUT IN ANYTHING! I ONLY WISH TO TAKE OUT!

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2 State positively	40 WWI battle site	63 Greedy	58 Tied
3 Following	45 Asked	54 Strip of wood	59 Withered
4 Least refined	47 Fall behind	55 Indian	62 Gas,
5 Cordon —	51 Soprano	56 The yoke's on	parts
6 Goal	Tetrazzini		63 Indian

Indian 62 Gal,
The yoke's on parts
them 63 Indian

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 6/11/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 7/11/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7755	1.7765
Deutsche Mark	1.6363	1.6361
Swiss Franc	1.4470	1.4471
French Franc	5.5940	5.5963**
Japanese Yen	129.88	129.93
European Currency Unit	1.2505	1.2495**

* USD Per STG

** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.87	4.93	4.93	5.12
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.18	10.06	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.37	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.66	8.06	8.12	8.06
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.25	9.31
Japanese Yen	6.25	6.15	5.87	5.62
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.68	9.81	9.81

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	355.50	6.80	Silver	4.09	.089

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6830	0.6850
Sterling Pound	1.2129	1.2190
Deutsche Mark	0.4174	0.4195
Swiss Franc	0.4710	0.4744
French Franc	0.1221	0.1227
Japanese Yen*	0.5256	0.5282
Dutch Guilder	0.3704	0.3723
Swedish Krona	0.1143	0.1149
Italian Lira*	0.0557	0.0560
Belgian Franc	0.02026	0.02036

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7820	1.7910
Lebanese Lira*	0.0773	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1824
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1860
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7480	1.7570
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1860
Greek Drachma*	0.4553	0.4593
Cypriot Pound	1.4830	1.5020

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	5/11/91	Close	6/11/91	Close
All-Share	124.33		124.30	
Banking Sector	104.99		104.80	
Insurance Sector	126.16		126.03	
Industry Sector	153.81		153.91	
Services Sector	137.92		137.78	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7635/45	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1235/40	Canadian dollar
	1.6460/70	Deutschemarks
	1.8533/43	Dutch guilders
	1.4530/37	Swiss francs
	33.83/87	Belgian francs
	5.6140/90	French francs
	1236/1237	Italian lire
	130.15/16	Japanese yen
	6.0080/0130	Swedish crowns
	6.4500/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.3780/3830	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	353.20/353.60	U.S. dollars

Morocco aims to wipe out deficits, make dirham convertible by 1993

RABAT (R) — Morocco plans to make its currency convertible by 1993 following substantial economic restructuring over the last eight years, Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada told parliament.

Opening a debate on next year's budget, Mr. Berrada said the cost of servicing the foreign debt, estimated by the World Bank at \$22 billion in 1988, had fallen from a peak of 123 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 81 per cent thanks to rescheduling.

He did not give a current figure for GDP.

He predicted "the end of the (debt) rescheduling cycle and convertibility of our currency (the dirham) by 1993," and an "elimination of the treasury deficit" by the same year.

He said "large-scale adjust-

ment and restructuring programme," carried out since 1983 at the behest of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, had enabled the treasury deficit to be cut from 11 to three per cent of GDP.

In the eight-year period, the current account deficit of the balance of payments was also slashed, from 13 to three per cent of GDP, and foreign exchange reserves rose "from an insignificant level to more than three months of imports."

The trade deficit was reduced from 52 to 39 per cent, largely thanks to a surge in sales of manufactured goods from 43 to 62 per cent of total exports.

Mr. Berrada said per capita GDP had almost doubled, new investments increased five-fold, unemployment cut from 18 to 16

per cent and inflation reduced from eleven to seven per cent.

Average growth over the eight years was 4.6 per cent. "Although it fell to 2.6 per cent last year, he predicted it would rise again this year to 4.2 per cent thanks to "an excellent cereal harvest." This year's crop was a record 8.5 million tonnes.

He said substantial progress was achieved despite heavy defence spending and investments in Western Sahara where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for independence since 1976. Officials say more than \$1 billion has been pumped into the disputed territory over 15 years.

Outlining next year's budget, he said some taxes would be increased and state spending on education would increase by 21 per cent, on health by 31 per cent and on housing by 183 per cent.

Swiss study compares rents, wages and other expenses in key cities

GENEVA (AP) — Rents are highest in Tokyo, a secretary earns most in Geneva and the most expensive business lunch is to be found in Stockholm, according to a cost-comparing survey by a Swiss company.

The rent for an unfurnished, two-bedroom apartment was \$6,025 per month in Tokyo, according to the survey conducted in September for the Geneva-based Interlink Business Research Inc.

A press summary of the survey said the comparable rent for London was \$3,420 and for Paris \$1,400.

The price for a business lunch in Stockholm was given at \$182 compared with \$81 for a similar lunch in Madrid.

A comparison of business travel costs in Europe listed London on top with \$660 for a "typical" overnight stay, more than twice the \$300 to be spent in Amsterdam. The calculation includes a single hotel room, lunch for two, dinner for one and taxi fare to and from the airport.

A medical checkup in Frankfurt cost \$120 and \$20 in Sydney, according to the survey. It gave the monthly salary of a bilingual secretary in Geneva as \$3,470, compared to \$2,105 in London and less than \$2,000 in Madrid, Brussels or Dublin.

Boeing expects 2,500 jobs to be lost in defence programme reductions

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Boeing Co. has said it expected to lay off or reassign at least 2,500 employees because of plans by President George Bush to cut the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Boeing defence space group spokesman Pete Dakan said four Boeing programmes would be cancelled as part of Mr. Bush's cuts, announced Sept. 27.

Mr. Dakan said the Seattle-based aircraft maker has determined that it would need to cut about 2,500 of the defence space group's 44,000 employees as a result of the cancelled programmes.

The programme cuts affect less than five per cent of the division's projected sales, and were not expected to be a major setback in the unit's bid to return to profitability in 1992.

The unit had losses of more than \$400 million in 1989 and 1990. Boeing had aimed to pare the losses this year and position the unit to reach profitability by the end of the year.

Algerian energy minister defends new oil bill

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Energy Minister Nordine Ait Laoussine is seeking support for ambitious new measures to generate more revenue from the country's oil reserves.

Mr. Laoussine spent more than three hours explaining the benefits to politicians, researchers and journalists.

The draft bill would allow foreign companies to take a share in oil and gas deposits, offer tax breaks to encourage exploration, and allow disputes to be settled under international auspices instead of by Algerian law as at present.

The latest draft was tabled Monday. Parliament, dominated by members of the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) has already rejected two government drafts of other laws — one on price deregulation and one on a new electoral law.

Mr. Laoussine said the measures could bring \$14 billion in new foreign investment.

He predicted that, based on an oil price of between \$20 and \$25 a barrel, export revenues would rise by \$2.5 to \$3 billion a year by 1996 and \$5 to \$6 billion by the year 2000.

This would be in addition to the \$6 to \$7 billion expected in coming months from foreign oil companies in return for their share in production.

Algeria's foreign debt is put at \$25 billion, much of it short term. Current servicing and repayments take up to 75 per cent of its foreign income — the vast majority earned from gas and oil exports.

Output from existing oilfields totals some 30 million tonnes a year. But recovery rates are said to be only 20 per cent because of outdated technology and poor

maintenance.

Mr. Laoussine said that thanks to foreign technology recoverable oil reserves would be increased beginning next year by 450 million tonnes over a period of 20 years from the present 700 million tonnes.

A further 255 million tonnes was expected from 2003, at a time when supply from non-OPEC producers including the Soviet Union and North America would be in decline.

"It is a good law. I am optimistic, even with the difficulties we might encounter," Mr. Laoussine said.

In another economic sector, Algeria has registered a trade surplus of \$1.27 billion in the first half of this year compared to a deficit of \$160 million in the same period of 1990.

Customs department figures showed imports in the period were worth 64,136 million dinars (\$2.85 billion) and exports 92,703 million dinars (\$4.12 billion).

In the first half of last year, imports were worth the equivalent of \$1.9 billion and exports \$1.74 billion.

Petroleum represented 96.32 per cent of exports in the first half of this year when Algeria exported nearly 800,000 barrels of crude a day during the Gulf crisis when prices rose.

The customs department did not say whether its figures took into account the devaluation of the dinar which lost nearly half of its value against the dollar in the first half of this year.

Europe was Algeria's largest trading partner, supplying over 72 per cent of imports and taking nearly 74 per cent of exports, leaving a surplus in Algeria's favour of 21.8 billion dinars (\$970 million).

Heinz to cut jobs

DUBLIN (R) — H.J. Heinz is to make significant cuts in its world wide work force of 40,000 but is still on target with its earnings forecasts for this year, Chairman Tony O'Reilly has said.

He said the food product company famed for its ketchup, soup, baby food, tuna and pet food would open a new factory in China, try to expand in eastern Europe and look for a joint venture in South Africa.

"We would be disappointed if we had less than \$6.8 billion in sales compared to \$6.6 last (fiscal) year and have earnings in the \$2.40 to \$2.41 range compared to \$2.13 last year," he told Reuters in an interview on prospects for the Pittsburgh-based company.

On job cuts, he pointed to the need for automation of the Heinz Starline tuna factories in Puerto Rico and Samoa because labour costs there were \$8 dollars an hour compared to 35-50 cents an hour for their competitors in Thailand.

"The rationalisation of our manufacturing procedures in the face of the North American free trade area will cause us to shed

jobs, some in Canada, some in the United States," he said.

Heinz has signed an agreement to produce baby food in the Soviet Union and hopes production will begin within two years.

In east Europe, Heinz has targeted Poland and Hungary as likely areas for expansion, he said.

"We are extremely interested in South Africa... the problem in South Africa is the obvious one. It has been a society in which there is a great deal of domestic liquidity caused by the inability of companies to invest outside South Africa so there is a great deal of rand money chasing a very limited number of targets," he pointed out.

"We are going to have to make it a joint venture if we do it and we would like to do it as soon as possible."

He was upbeat in reviewing the long term prospects for the crystal and China group Waterford Wedgwood in which his Fitzwilliam investment group has a 29.9 per cent stake, but acknowledged consumer conditions were still tough.

Defeat of U.S. bank bill dashes reform prospects

WASHINGTON (R) — The resounding defeat in the U.S. House of Representatives of a bill that would have overhauled the nation's banking laws reflects fears of a repeat of the savings and loan debacle and a political reluctance to meddle with complex financial issues.

Lobbyists and congressional aides said that unless party politics could be taken out of bank reform, it will be tough to get comprehensive bank legislation through a Congress scarred by the savings and loan disaster.

The defeat of the bill in a 324-89 vote after a grueling 10 months of debate dashes hopes for broad reform for at least a year, aides and bank experts said.

The Treasury Department early this year proposed freeing up banks to compete with insurance and securities firms nationwide, turning them into financial supermarkets offering chequing, mutual funds, insurance and loans.

The final straw was the Bush

administration, which lobbied hard for the defeat of the rewritten bill.

The White House rallied Republicans who were angered by the numerous added restrictions on bank powers that were tacked on to the bill in various amendments.

"It was a combination of procedural disgust, substantive unhappiness and personal vendettas," said Karen Shaw, banking analyst at the Institute for Strategic Development.

As the bill turned partisan, several aides said Democrats did not want to risk voting for a bank bill when they knew bank failures are certain to rise next year, leaving them open to blame.

Regulators predict up to 239 bank failures next year, the highest since the Great Depression, up from 137 this year.

The federal bank insurance fund, which covers customer deposits in failed banks, will run out of money any day now. It is seeking \$70 billion to continue closing and selling off failed banks.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Nov. 2-6	Oct. 26-30
Daily average	JD 1,886,938	JD 1,866,149
Total volume	JD 5,834,651	JD 5,330,746
Total shares	2,427,383	2,892,861
No. Of contracts	2,519	3,645

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 2,211,815 (43.5%)	JD 3,095,597 (58.5%)
Financial	JD 2,218,571 (43.9%)	JD 1,229,416 (23.1%)
Service	(8.9%)	(10.9%)
Insurance	(3.3%)	(0.5%)
Share price index	135.7	135.3
No. of companies	78	76
Price movement (rise)	19	46
(Decline)	36	20
(Stable)	21	10

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Yugoslav Armed Forces set up rockets, EC sanctions announced

BELGRADE (R) — The Serbian Yugoslav army said on Friday it had set up missiles on launch pads and selected targets as battles raged in Croatia and the European Community (EC) announced sanctions against Yugoslavia.

In their toughest warning to Croatia since fighting erupted four months ago, the Yugoslav Armed Forces told the rebel republic it risked massive casualties and ecological disaster to itself and Europe if it attacked federal missile bases.

The navy imposed a blockade on six Croatian ports and made clear it would fire on any vessel that tried to break through.

"A certain number of rockets are on the launch ramps and ready for action on selected ground targets," the air force and Air Defence Command said in a statement.

"Suicidal attacks by Ustashe (Croatian) fighters on air defence units threaten not only themselves but even people in a wider region of Central Europe."

The air force said it had set charges on fuel supplies and stored missiles to prevent Croatian forces seizing them.

It said Croatian forces had attacked missile bases in the breakaway republic and indicated it had bio-chemical weapons it has previously denied possessing.

The federal forces have been backing Serbs in Croatia since they took up arms to oppose the republic's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia last June.

Fresh fighting erupted Friday. Fighter jets fired rockets at several Croatian targets, the port of Dubrovnik came under sporadic artillery fire and mortar and artillery battles raged in the centre of the republic, Croatian radio said.

In Rome, the European Community clamped wide-ranging economic sanctions on Yugoslavia and asked the United Nations Security Council to impose an oil embargo. Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said.

He told reporters the 12 EC foreign ministers, meeting on the fringes of a NATO summit, also decided to continue a Community-sponsored peace conference in the Hague despite continued violations of EC-brokered ceasefire.

The sanctions suspend trade concessions, ban imports of Yugoslav textiles and drop Yugoslavia from a 24-nation recovery programme for Eastern Europe.

"The basic elements (of EC) proposals... aimed at a comprehensive political solution of the crisis have not been supported by all parties," said Mr. Van Den Broek, whose country currently holds the EC presidency.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said economic measures could have only a limited effect on the warring parties.

"We are not pretending this is going to bring about peace in Yugoslavia tomorrow," he said.

The sanctions are intended particularly to hit Serbia, the only one of the six republics that has not accepted an EC plan to group them in a looser alliance which Yugoslavia says spells the end of the Yugoslav state of 23.5 million people.

Croatia says more than 2,500 Croats have been killed in the conflict. An unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have been killed.

Fighting has increased in Croatia this week, with the air force stepping up strikes from Croatia's Adriatic coast to the eastern border with Serbia, its traditional arch-rival.

On Friday, the heaviest battles appeared to be in towns around Nova Gardiska in central Croatia near the closed Zagreb-Belgrade Motorway.

The navy said it had re-imposed blockades at Dubrovnik, Sibenik, Split, Zadar, Rijeka and Ploce because Croatia had not lifted blockades of federal military bases on its soil.

The Yugoslav Armed Forces, which total about 180,000 personnel, outnumber and outgun the Croatian militias but say they have not yet unleashed their full might.

Western military experts said the federal forces have four Frog-7 surface-to-surface missiles and SAM-6, SAM-7, SAM-9 and SAM-13 missiles.

Although many of the army's weapons are outdated and intended for defence, one diplomat said: "This is an act of great political irresponsibility."

Davor Domazet, a spokesman for the Croatian National Guard, said the army wanted to intimidate Europe more than Croatia.

"This is just a psychological threat. It is directed less towards Croatia than towards Europe because of the sanctions it may take against Serbia," he said.

Mr. Domazet said the National Guard had been sent a copy of the army statement Thursday night.

U.K. Ruling party suffers triple by-election blow

REDCAR, England (R) — Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives suffered humiliating defeats in three parliamentary by-elections within months of a national election.

But Mr. Major said Friday the opposition Labour Party's win by a narrow margin would not translate into a power-capturing victory in a nationwide poll.

His opponents trumpeted the outcome as a rehearsal for a general election due sometime in the next seven months.

Mr. Major told reporters at the NATO summit in Rome: "The swing from Conservative to Labour was tiny, far finer than what we have seen in the past, far below what they would need for a general election victory."

With a nationwide test so close, the outcome of Thursday's contests spelled the worst by-election night for the Conservatives since they came to power in 1979.

Results showed Labour narrowly captured the northeast English constituency of Lambourgh from the Conservatives and easily retained their own stronghold of Hemsworth, a mining community in the north of England.

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said the result meant the country had rejected the Conservatives.

"The government should have got the nation to vote in a general election and this morning we would have had a Labour government."

Mr. Major's party lost control of the prosperous Scottish Kirkcaldy and Deeside seat to the centrist Liberal Democrats who replaced the Conservatives as the second biggest political party in Scotland, after Labour.

Further gloom for Mr. Major, who must call an election by next June, emerged with a national public opinion poll which showed Labour with enough support to win an outright majority in the 650-member chamber.

The Gallup survey in Friday's Daily Telegraph newspaper put Labour backing at 44 per cent, eight points clear of the Conservatives, with the Liberal Democrats on 15.5 per cent.

Despite Mr. Major's popularity, the Conservatives have lost national support with public concern over the future of the state health service and scepticism about an end to economic recession.

Of the three seats, Lambourgh was seen as the most accurate barometer of national intentions because of its mix of pro-Conservative rural areas and industrial towns.

The winner, Ashok Kumar, a 35-year-old Asian origin, beat his Conservative rival by only 2,000 votes, a swing in support not great enough for Labour to win an overall majority if applied nationally.

"Winston Churchill once said a majority of one is enough. We are the winners," Mr. Kumar said after his victory.

The Liberal Democrats' victory in Scotland made them the largest third party in Britain's parliament since 1935. Jubilant winner Nicol Stephen, a 31-year-old lawyer, said it also showed Mr. Major's government had to agree to devolve power to Scotland.

Philippine opposition party breaks up over nomination

MANILA (R) — The Philippines' largest opposition party broke up Friday when opposition leader Salvador Laurel expelled his two main rivals for the party's nomination to contest the 1992 presidential election.

The break-up of the Nacionalista Party five days after the return from exile of former first lady Imelda Marcos could boost her chances of grabbing the opposition's leadership as it prepares to challenge President Corason Aquino's government in the May polls, political analysts said.

A Nacionalista faction headed by Mr. Laurel sealed the party's break-up by expelling its secretary-general, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, and Central Committee member Eduardo Cojuangco plus five others for alleged disloyalty.

Sen. Enrile and Mr. Cojuangco, associates of the late President Ferdinand Marcos before he was ousted in 1986, had been fighting Mr. Laurel for the party's nomination as presidential candidate.

"Any decision to amputate a part of the body is always a hard decision... but we had to do it to avert disaster and save the party," Mr. Laurel said at a Nacionalista meeting which voted to expel Sen. Enrile and Mr. Cojuangco.

Mrs. Marcos had been trying to arrange a meeting of the three squabbling presidential contenders to patch up their feuds and boost opposition chances in the 1992 election.

Mrs. Marcos, who is facing tax evasion and corruption charges for allegedly helping her husband plunder the economy during his 20-year rule, has said she has no political ambitions. But she has also hinted she could change her mind.

Mrs. Marcos toured refugee camps for Philippine volcano victims Friday, giving away anti-granulated sacks of rice and saying her husband would have had the camps built better and faster.

Soviets mark communism's demise on Revolution Day

ST. PETERSBURG, USSR (AP) — The birthplace of the Bolshevik Revolution cheered the demise of Communist power with skydivers, fireworks and concerts, but the festivities contrasted starkly to the angry lines at Soviet food stores.

In Moscow and elsewhere Thursday, people foraged for food in continued panic-buying before steep price increases take effect in the new year.

Ethnic fighting in the Caucasus caused shortages that led to bread riots in Armenia.

The day that once was the most sacred holiday in the Soviet calendar was marked in the capital by the small rallies, kept 200 metres apart by police in gray greatcoats.

Communist supporters carrying Lenin placards marched through Red Square, denouncing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"It's not a holiday for me," declared an older woman at the pro-Communist rally in front of the Lenin Mausoleum. "Hunger hunger."

A subdued rally of anti-Communist demonstrators, led by Russian Orthodox priests, mourned the victims of the Soviet regime.

The traditional Red Square parade of soldiers, tanks and missiles that glorified Soviet power was cancelled by Mr. Gorbachev after the failed coup d'etat and the party and forced the suspension of its activities.

Less than a mile away from the Kremlin, hundreds of people lined up glumly for bread at the capital's largest bread store.

Queues for milk and bread formed elsewhere in the city early on the holiday morning.

Despite the nationwide economic crisis, the mood was upbeat in St. Petersburg, where more than 10,000 people massed in front of the winter palace to cheer the official rechristening of the city after more than half a century of being called Leningrad in honour of the founder of the Soviet state.

"You, the residents of this great city, must have pride in your city and do everything you can to make this a place of beauty and culture," Mayor Anatoly Sobchak told the crowd in front of the 200-year-old pastel palace.

The tricolour Russian flag fluttered from buildings. Stunt planes roared overhead and parachutists plunged down through the gray sky trailing red, white and blue streamers and nearly hitting spectators in palace square.

Spontaneous small groups denouncing the Communists sprung up around the huge square.

"I cannot forget the terror of communism I cannot forget the millions who died in labour camps," St. Petersburg City Council member Marina Soloviev screamed to anybody who would listen. "This is a day of national tragedy."

Among the dignitaries in St. Petersburg was the successor to the Russian throne, Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich Romanov, who arrived from Paris on his first visit to his ancestral homeland spent Thursday visiting memorials to Russia's royal family and meeting with supporters.

Miyazawa harps on old theme in policy speech

TOKYO (R) — New Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa unveiled an ambitious policy platform Friday, pledging to send troops overseas as peacekeepers, raise the standard of living and clean up politics.

Yet Mr. Miyazawa, in his first policy speech to parliament since taking office Tuesday, repeated some of the priorities of the last administration and gave little indication of how he planned to implement policy.

The premier, placed in power by the ruling party's backroom bosses, said Japan must play a significant role in the emerging new world order by sending troops overseas for the first time since World War II.

"I believe it is imperative that Japan make the utmost effort... to contribute to the United Nations that has such a major role to play in ensuring world peace," he said.

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NATO declares new era of cooperation, differs on S. Union

ROME (R) — NATO leaders declared a new era of cooperation in Europe Friday, offering formal ties to former East European adversaries, but differed sharply on how to deal with the crumbling Soviet Union.

An eight-page Rome declaration on peace and cooperation, issued on the last morning of a two-day summit, declared:

"The peoples of North America and the whole of Europe can now join in a community of shared values based on freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

But the 16 leaders clashed behind closed doors on the Soviet Union, with French President Francois Mitterrand accusing the allies of adopting a belligerent tone and doing too little to prevent a disintegration of the Soviet state, officials said.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez also urged support for a central authority, they said.

France dissociated itself from a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) statement which urged all Soviet authorities to respect international law and meet arms control and human rights commitments.

A French official said Mr. Mitterrand told the allies "he felt the statement... takes far too high a moral tone. He feels much more should be done to support President (Mikhail) Gorbachev and prevent a disintegration of the union."

The summit adopted a new military strategy but the final declaration omitted all mention of proposals by the United States, Britain and the Netherlands for a wider world role for NATO in the post-cold war era.

Meeting on the fringes of the summit, European Community Foreign Ministers slapped economic sanctions Yugoslavia and called on the U.N. Security Council to impose an oil embargo.

The worsening civil war between Serbia and Croatia demonstrated the limitations of NATO and the 12-nation EC in handling political and security problems in Eastern Europe.

The NATO leaders said it was for the peoples of the Soviet Union to decide their future relationship through peaceful and democratic means without "threats, intimidation, coercion or violence."

Apparently in response to the French and Spanish criticism, they added: "We encourage them to progress towards a common ground of cooperation, both among themselves and with us."

Delegates said Mr. Mitterrand said the declaration had "the tone of a preaching fiar."

"If Stalin's empire disintegrates, that can only make us happy. But if the Russian empire of Peter the Great disintegrates, we will only suffer from the instability it will bring. So we must not give the impression of encouraging it," he told the meeting.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said France had objected to a paragraph in the statement but had not blocked its release.

The NATO statement warned the Soviet Union to keep its vast nuclear arsenal under tight central control. It also stressed that the Soviet republics must take their share of the central government's international liabilities and debts.

The final declaration papered over differences among the allies about Franco-German proposals for a future joint European defence force taking orders from the European Community (EC).

The allies welcomed the idea of developing the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) "both as the defence component of the process of European unification and as a means of strengthening the European pillar of the alliance."

U.S. President George Bush voiced blunt concern Thursday at the possibility that European allies planned to organise their own defence independently of NATO and asked for a clear statement that American troops were still wanted in Europe.

He got it. The NATO declaration stressed the importance of "the essential trans-Atlantic link

as demonstrated by the significant presence of North American forces in Europe."

NATO also agreed to set up a North Atlantic Cooperation Council to hold annual security talks with the nine countries of Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and the Baltic States.

The first meeting of the 25 foreign ministers will be held on Dec. 20 in Brussels, where NATO has its headquarters.

The newly-democratic East European states are looking for a new security umbrella following the collapse of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact this year, but NATO leaders agreed that they would not extend the alliance's membership for the moment.

The new strategy unveiled Thursday pledges the biggest changes in forces and doctrine since the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was founded in 1949 to counter what it saw as the threat of Soviet invasion of Western Europe.

To adapt to the collapse of communism in the former Eastern Bloc, NATO plans to slim down its forces poised to resist attack from the East and create mobile multinational units that could deploy quickly to meet a threat on any front.

The new strategy also does away with the old doctrine of "flexible response" that aimed at defending the West with wave after wave of nuclear deterrent whose use would be highly unlikely.

The United States and Britain failed to convince their allies to give NATO a wider military role in world crises like the Gulf War.

Britain backed a U.S. proposal that NATO bases, intelligence and supplies could be used to help enforce U.N. resolutions and a Dutch idea that NATO could assist the 38-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in a similar way.

The summit declaration said only that NATO would continue to "address broader challenges" in its consultations — a bland and uncontroversial formula.

5,000 feared dead in Philippine floods

TACLOBAN, Philippines (R) — At least 5,000 people are feared dead in huge floods in the central Philippines that buried people, cars and homes into the sea, relief officials said Friday.

The official death toll stood at 3,400, but a spokesman for the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) in Manila said the more than 2,000 still missing there: "says after the flood could be pre-announced."

"They're dead, drowned. But we can't put that down officially yet until we have recovered their bodies," Francisco Pena, assistant OCD chief for operations, said by telephone.

President Corason Aquino Friday declared a state of calamity on Leyte Island, 560 kilometres south east of Manila. The declaration empowers the government to fix food prices and commandeer transport and materials for speedy rehabilitation of the devastated region.

Helicopters and C-130 military transport planes ferried food and medicine to Ormoc City, the hardest hit area. At least 3,000 people had been confirmed dead there after tropical storm Thelma ripped through the area, triggering flash floods and landslides.

"It would be a miracle if the missing are still alive, but we'll only officially list them as dead after two weeks," said civil defence officer Vilma Tan in Tacloban, the capital of Leyte province.

Hundreds of bodies were swept out to sea by the freak surge of water which hit the Leyte port of Ormoc Tuesday morning, hurling cars and homes into the crashing waves.

there after tropical storm Thelma ripped through the area, triggering flash floods and landslides.

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Seoul renounces nuclear weapons

SEOUL (R) — South Korea renounced the manufacture, storage and use of nuclear weapons Friday in a challenge to its Stalinist neighbour North Korea to allow inspection of its own nuclear programme.

In an unexpected speech televised live, President Roh Tae-woo said: "The Republic of Korea will use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, and will not manufacture, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons."

"Now there can be no reason or justification for North Korea to develop nuclear weapons or evade international inspection of its facilities," he added.

Defence analysts believe North Korea's nuclear programme, centred at its Yongbyon research facility north of Pyongyang, aims to develop weaponry.

North Korea has denied the charge, but has refused to allow international inspection of its facilities, and has insisted that the United States remove its nuclear weapons which are widely believed stored in South Korea.

Mr. Roh also said South Korea would join international efforts to ban chemical and biological weapons and he said his country "will not possess nuclear fuel reprocessing and enrichment facilities."

The North Korean research programme has worried not only South Korea, which has sheltered under the American nuclear umbrella since the 1950-53 Korea war, but also neighbouring Japan, China and the Soviet Union.

"Indeed," Mr. Roh said, "Nuclear weapons in North Korea hands would be so dangerous and destabilising that they would not only threaten the very survival of our nation but could in an instant shatter the peace of North East Asia and the world."

While Mr. Roh did not directly address the issue of the American weapons, a presidential spokesman later said "under close consultation, Korea and the United States will take appropriate measures to implement President Roh's declaration in the shortest time."

"And the non-existence of nuclear weapons will be confirmed automatically after a certain period of time," the spokesman said.

Hong Kong begins boat people deportation

HONG KONG (R) — Vietnamese men clung to railings and prison guards carried weeping women on to a ferry Friday as Hong Kong started its first operation to repatriate boat people forcibly for almost two years.

In the first stage of an operation to deport a rag-tag band of 59 Vietnamese men, women and children, prison officers escorted the dispirited boat people from their camp on a remote outlying island aboard a vessel to Kai Tak Airport.

Reporters saw one Vietnamese woman, her face swollen from weeping, collapse to the ground before female prison guards carried her, feet dragging along the ground, onto a Royal Navy ferry in a prelude to Saturday's deportation.

As other sullen, shabbily-dressed boat people shuffled aboard, three men resisted guards' attempts to persuade them to leave the island's pier.

"They hung on to the railings, they didn't want to go," said Lionel Rodrigues of the Government Information Services (GIS).

Prison department employees, acting as counsellors, persuaded the men to let go. The government's refugee coordinator Clinton Lees said no force had been used throughout the operation.

"There were a couple of people... who were reluctant to get on. They were guided on to the ferry," he told reporters. "I do not think by any stretch of the imagination you could describe that as force."

The deportation, which follows an agreement by Vietnam last month to accept all boat people denied refugee status, is the first of what Hong Kong hopes will become regular flights.

More than 63,000 Vietnamese boat people are languishing in crowded Hong Kong camps out of a total of more than 120,000 scattered around the region. The vast majority are economic migrants seeking a better life — only

4,800 in Hong Kong have so far been classed as genuine refugees under U.N. rules.

The 59 returnees are so-called double-backers and their families. Double-backers are boat people who went home voluntarily but later returned to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong officials accuse them of coming back in the hope of collecting for the second time United Nations grants designed to help boat people rebuild their lives in Vietnam.

In Hong Kong's biggest boat people camp, Vietnamese marched to protest against the operation and stood in a minute's silence in a gesture of support for the 59.

A Prison Department spokesman said 3,000 people took part in the main protest. The number was well down on protests last month when well over 10,000 demonstrated against forced repatriation.



Soviet gold coins flood market

LONDON (R) — As the Soviet Union struggles to meet its mounting debts, unusually large quantities of old Russian gold coins in mint condition are finding their way onto the world market, a Norwegian dealer said.

Jan Olav Aamlid, co-owner of coin dealers Oslo Mynthandel, said he had recently bought 22,000 five-rouble gold coins of uncirculated high quality and with a retail value of about \$3 million from Western banks and Soviet sources. A London-based dealer said: "What impresses me is the quantity of coins at this quality and the premium price Mr. Aamlid is selling them for — which is about twice the scrap value."

Mr. Aamlid said he had shipped 20,000 of the coins, each containing just under four grammes of gold, to the U.S. market and had already sold half of the remaining 2,000 coins in Norway at a retail price of 850 crowns (\$130) each. The coins portray Tsar Nicholas II and were made between 1900 and 1909, he added.

4 legged Chinese chicken lays 50 eggs a month

PEKING (R) — A four-legged Chinese chicken endowed with two reproductive systems has proved itself able to use both to lay 50 eggs a month, according to a provincial newspaper. The hen was bought earlier this year but thought to be a dud until it started its high-yield career in September, said the Masses newspaper of the eastern province Shandong. The prodigy from the northeast province Heilongjiang was also born with two extra usable legs, it said.

Nigeria Airways staff stage dress protest

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria Airways workers wore their underwear outside their clothes and their shirts and dresses inside out and back to front, the airline's spokesman said. "They say it's a form of protest to press their demand for better conditions of service," Chris Aliaga said of the action by members of the National Union of Air Traffic Services Employees. The airline's uniformed staff, including air hostesses, were not involved in the protest, he said. Union leader Abah Omeje urged members Monday to continue their action until the management of the state-owned airline met their demand for improved allowances and a general review of conditions of services, the News Agency of Nigeria said.

Saudi to sell his 'Jeddah bride' diamond

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi businessman Ahmad Hassan Fitalhi, who paid \$7.15 million for the diamond he named "Jeddah Bride" said he plans to put the 80-carat diamond for sale. Mr. Fitalhi bought the diamond, the largest ever bought at auction, at Sotheby's in New York recently. "I can not keep the diamond for ever. My job as a businessman is to buy and sell. This means that the Jeddah Bride will be put for sale one day," he told the Jeddah daily Ashraq Al-Awsat in an interview published Tuesday. He described the five-less rectangular diamond as unique among the famous diamonds of the world. "It is the first in the world in colour, purity and shape but the sixth in weight," he said. Mr. Fitalhi believes that rare diamonds can be a good investment if bought at the right time and price.

China to get tough on tomb robbers

PEKING (R) — Chinese authorities, alarmed by a spate of grave robberies, plan to get tough on criminals who plunder ancient sites, the official People's Daily said. "Recently the incidence of grave robberies has risen dramatically," the newspaper said. "This has caused huge losses to the motherland's precious cultural heritage." Serious punishment would be imposed, it said without elaborating. The newspaper said officials must be convinced that the crime was serious. "Some local officials condone grave robbery, believing it is one way for people to get rich." It said rewards would be offered to informers. Chinese archaeologists have periodically complained that ancient sites, which are rarely protected, are easy prey for thieves. Chinese antiquaries fetch high prices overseas.

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